

U.S. 79th Infantry Division G-2 Periscope Report
January 1945

Missing G-2 Periscope Report
For January 1-3, 5, 1945
at National Archives

FROM: 032200 Jan 45
TO: 042200 Jan 45
Hq 79th Inf Div
In the Field
042200 January 1945

1. General Summary: There is no known enemy front line, but patrols are now operating between the LAUREN DIV-R and the MAGNOT LINE.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

a. General Summary: There was no enemy activity during the night. This morning the 315th Inf reported KILDSBLTZ (11543) clear, but enemy outposts located at 159465 and 155457. UERSELEBACH (1841) and BUHL (1935) were also reported clear of enemy at 1100 hrs. During the afternoon the 315th Inf reported enemy at 165446 with enemy activity vic 173455 and 177444. Elements of the 3rd Inf, 315th Inf engaged a 3 man patrol vic 183388 at 1430 hrs and the entire patrol was captured after a brief fire fight in which one of the Germans was wounded. The 315th Inf reported that civilians stated a 3 man enemy patrol on bicycles was on the BIELE-BELENHIL road early in the afternoon and that the Germans started to repair the bridge at WIL L. UTARHURG yesterday. At 2100 hrs the 314th Inf reported small arms and flare activity in the BILHIL area.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- Pls evacuated through P. 7
- Pls evacuated through medical channels: 1
- Total Pls to date: 21,129
- No enemy tanks destroyed during period.
- Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, PW Enclosure, Inf Regts, MAGNANAU and civilian road patrols.
- 315th Inf Div sector as of 1800 hrs: Enemy activity increased in DAMBACH area where four tanks and a 20mm gun have been firing at our troops. Enemy activity in PALL-IPFBOU-G-BILHIL area consists of strong patrols and intense mortar and arty fire on forward elements. Some decrease in enemy pressure in BILFELF-BILHIL - BILHIL area since 1300 hrs. Estimated 60 Pls captured in S. BGMUHL (7937). Black N from INGEN (7335) - BILHIL (7634) road meeting SA, mortar and MG fire on forward elements. Arty fire light. (45th Div)

4. Notes on Bl. It. 1.3

- To patrol to determine strength and location of our positions.

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G-2

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(U-V-E-R)

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Authority: DND 73501
Jy 30 NNA: Date

1. Unit Identification	File	Place	Captured by	Date
2nd Co, 8th AT Repl Tng Bn (Deserter)	1	Oberotterbach	315 Inf	2 Jan
<u>PW Deserters in Civilian Clothes apprehended by 79th CIC Detachment</u>				
Unit	File	Place	Unit Located at	Date
March Co, 40th Eng Repl Tng Bn	1	Regensburg		6 Nov
1st March Co, Strassbourg	1	Strassbourg		3 Nov
Station Complement, Airport A-10/VII	1	Haguenau		20 Nov
13th Co, 25th Inf, 245th Inf Div	1	Mastweiler vic Bitche		10 Dec
Army Medical Detachment	1	Haguenau		23 Nov
33rd Pz Recon Bn	1	Paderborn		27 Nov
	7			

1. PW of 2nd Co, 8th AT Repl Tng Bn was an elation deserter who was last with his unit at Oberotterbach, Upper Silesia. He forged furlough papers and deserted his unit traveling by train in civilian transportation to vic of Mannheim and crossed the Rhine there. He stated, since he was a deserter, he avoided all military personnel when possible. He traveled through Landau and Berg Zabern and stated that he saw no unusual troop concentrations. Elements vic of Berg Zabern occupied by Volksturm GIs, and German personnel.

PW of 1st March Co, 40th Eng Repl Tng Bn, was last with his unit on 6th November in Regensburg when he received a furlough and deserted.

PW of 1st March Co, Strassbourg states that his unit was made up of convalescents drawn from the Strassbourg Hospital and was last with his unit on 3 Nov when he received a furlough to Soufflenheim and deserted.

PW of the Station Complement, Airport A-10/VII was last with his unit on 20 Nov at which time there were 6 M 109s based at the field vic of Haguenau. PW deserted and hid in the home in A 20 E.U.

PW of the 13th Co, 25th Inf, 245th Inf was last with his unit on 10 Dec in the town of Mastweiler in vic of Bitche when he deserted to his home vic of Haguenau.

PW of the Army Medical Detachment was stationed in the hospital at Haguenau and deserted on 23 Nov when the hospital moved out.

PW of 33rd Pz Recon Bn was last with his unit in vic of Paderborn, Westphalia, received furlough to Linsingen on 27 Nov and deserted.

SIGNIFICANT ORDER OF BATTLE FACTS IN THE WEST - - WEEK 25 DEC 44 to 1 JAN 45

1. WESTERN FRONT

a. General

In a week during which the enemy plan of attack appeared to undergo radical revision because of the Third US Army's smashing counter-offensive, the following significant Order of Battle Facts stood out:

(1) The enemy had all his Panzers on the table. All of his original armor reserve in the WEST is either committed or disposed close to the battle area. To meet Third US Army pressure the enemy has resorted to his now well established "shuttle" tactic and moved Panzers from the relatively inactive N sectors to the fiercest threatened tactical area.

(2) The enemy's Infantry reinforcements have been far below his estimated capability of 4 1/2 divisions a week. None of the divisions from ITALY and L.G.N.D.L.-W.I. have yet appeared in the offensive.

(3) The several new Volksgrenadier divisions that have been committed have proven to be third-rate quality troops.

b. Enemy's Dependence on Western Armor

During a week in which the Third US Army's offensive transformed the HUSTON pocket into a dagger aimed directly at the heart of the German lines of communication, it became obvious that the enemy had no armored reserves left in the west. He had to play out his hand with the Panzers on the table. As a result in the first part of the week, the weight of Sixth US Army and Fifth Pz Army were reconcentrated; later, augmented by the newly arrived 7 Pz Div, in the North apparently for a drive ALLG. However, by the end of the week, the newly com-

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By: 36 NAVA: Date:

Enemy Order of Battle Plans. (Cont'd)

itted 9VG, 167 VG, and 15 Pz Gren Divs plus 3 Pz Gren and 1 SS Pz Divs, transferred from the Panzer striking force in the North, had to be employed in a desperate effort to halt or blunt the smashing pressure of the Third US Army offensive. This shuffling of Panzer units, reminiscent of enemy tactics last fall, indicates strongly that he has no uncommitted reserve in the West. The enemy in some form has committed all his available Panzer reserves and he must win or lose with the armored cards he has on the table.

c. One of the most significant factors of the German offensive has been the failure of his infantry to hold the ground captured by the Panzers in their initial successes. When they turned Northward toward the METZ and LIège leaving the infantry to protect the southern flank, the Volksgrenadiers wilted and withered on the vine under the Third US Army assault. This failure of the Volksgrenadiers indicates strongly that they are no better than any of the rest of the low-grade infantry which had preceded them to destruction in recent months in the West. So far, as a result of the Third US Army offensive-busting assault, five German Infantry Divs have been bled white (26 VG, 212 VG, 276 VG, 352 VG (now out of contact) and 5 Para), and three panzers, 116, 130 and 15 PG, severely mauled. The near destruction of these divisions necessitated the commitment of 79 VG last week and 9 and 169 VG, 3 PG and 1 SS this week.

d. Except for 9 and 560 VG from DE MARK, actually part of the Volksgrenadier crop of divisions being formed in GERMANY, no infantry has yet appeared from other theaters in the offensive. 710 Infantry, 2 Ltn and 6 SS Ltn have been reported en route from SCANDINAVIA and infantry from the Italian Front has been rumored departing for the West. However, none of these units has yet materialized on the battlefield. Instead, the brunt of the infantry fighting has been borne by the Volksgrenadiers aided by 3 and 5 Para Divs, themselves actually no better than Volksgrenadier caliber. Further, even the Volksgrenadiers have appeared in far lesser numbers than expected. This may be due to a number of factors, among them the growing demands of the Eastern Front, but whatever the reason, it is highly significant that the enemy's build up in the offensive areas is less than one-fourth of his estimated capability.

2. SUMMARY

On the basis of the above enumerated significant facts it is indicated that:

a. Third US Army's BASTOGNE threat has forced the enemy to redispense his armor and that all his available armored reserve in the West is either committed or in tactical reserve.

b. The enemy's infantry is of low-grade quality and has proved a definite weakness in the offensive.

c. The enemy's losses from US Air and ground assaults have been high, totaling the equivalent of five divisions on Third US Army front alone. Due to these losses and the searing BASTOGNE wedge, the enemy is now in a position where he must either "bust out" to the N, S or in some other sector in an effort to relieve this pressure or "get out" and retire behind the BLIEFELD LINE. (TUSA).

* * * * *

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE ITEMS

A Surrender Story: Nine men from the GI defending KILBURN found Christmas was without cheer in 1944 when one belonged to the German Army. To solve the problem, they decided to spend New Years Eve with the Americans. There was a slight technical difficulty of crossing the ALH without qualifying for the Purple Heart. They drew lots, and the lucky winner was sent as advance and "quartering" party, to inform GI Joe that the remainder would come within 24 hours, and as they were harmless, there was no need in expending valuable ammunition which might be needed elsewhere. Even though the "quartering party" was unable to complete his mission satisfactorily, his eight buddies received a hearty welcome from a 317th Inf wire patrol. They have been feasting on C-rations ever since. (20 Div)

Goering's Medals: PWS rpt current story in German Army: Due to the great difficulty of sorting out the decorations from all former satellite states, Reich Marshal GOERING has put his G/B specialists to work cataloging his medals. He is said at present to be parading in ALH wearing no decorations, but only the in-

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scription S. C. * on his nearly chest.

* See Catalogue (30th Div)

THIS IS THE ENEMY

Interrogation 22 Dec by IPW team No. 42, 30th US Inf Div, revealed the following atrocity committed in the Division zone. On 18 December, the Engineer Platoon of the 1st Recon Bn of 1-38 Div was enroute to attack the town of STAVELLOT. Before passing through the town of PARONDEUY (R7000) the members of the platoon were ordered and instructed by their platoon leader to do away with all civilians that came into their sight. It has been definitely ascertained that the military operations of the enemy were not hindered in any way by the civilians concerned. The Engineer Platoon then went to work and rounded up 20 civilians, two of them were women, and took them into a barn. The soldiers then shot them down in cold blood. The barn was thereafter set afire in order to erase all incriminating evidence. The platoon then moved on to occupy their objectives.

Some of the members of the platoon taking part in the outrage were captured. They showed no concern at all over their deeds, and confessions have been easily obtained which were signed and sworn to properly. One man of the group testified that he had shot two Belgians who were about 45 or 50 years of age. Another testified that he saw an NCO walking off with two Belgians 19-22 years of age, to shoot them. The Belgians, when they realized what was up, tried to escape, and the PW states he shot them both. The platoon leader of this platoon, who was responsible for this outrage, has been wounded seriously, and is now receiving medical aid. All of the PWs are being forwarded to Higher Hq for a trial for their crimes, and the punishment which their bestiality deserves.

Note: This information is corroborated by a civilian who had escaped and was previously interviewed by IPW Team. (Source: 30th Div) (TUSK)

WARNING: Reports of the 2nd US Army indicate that the enemy is attempting to break through the lines at ELBOUL (P4790), overrunning a key position and burning three tanks. Infiltration was contained but its occurrence should be called to the attention of all troops. Units are again warned that all elements will take every precaution throughout the day and night to provide for adequate security against land, air or airborne attack from any direction. (See: 83rd Div) (VII Corps)

Telephone Taps

32nd A/B Div reports that on the night of 22-23 Dec, the G-2 received a telephone call, purportedly from the G-2 of "MAG-TUR" that parachutists were dropping a mile and a half away in the divisional area. G-2, G-3 and G-4 of "MAG-TUR" when contacted, said no such call had been made to them. With large numbers of enemy agents now operating behind our lines, all units should make it a point to check back on reports and orders from unfamiliar sources. (VII Corps)

A PW who recently joined the 1st Co, of the 290th Regt, explains that when he arrived at the CP of the 277th Div at NEUHOF (R0402) to be sent to his last unit, he was told to "find yourself a gun somewhere on the way to your Co.". Further he states that he was not in the possession of any weapon until he arrived in the front lines. (Source: 27th Inf Div) (VII Corps)

ABC NEWSCAST AS OF 012400

WESTERN FRONT: The First United States Army is making excellent progress on the Northern flank of the German Salient. They have knocked out many tanks, and have taken over 1000 prisoners today.

EASTERN FRONT: The Germans are making strong attempts to relieve the beleaguered garrison of BUDAPEST, while the Russians are cleaning up the central part of HUNGARY's capital. The Russians have beat off several of the Nazi attempts to reach BUDAPEST.

ITALIAN FRONT: The Canadians have made some progress against heavy German resistance in the central sector.

GERMANY: Fighting still continues in the streets of BERLIN today, while the Reichstag has held its first session.

NAVY: The Navy announces that its planes have raided FUJIKU, 2 days in a row.

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G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

78
10 Jan 45
FROM: 052200 Jan 45
TO : 062200 Jan 45
Hq 79th Inf Div
In the Field
062400 January 1945

No. 180

Maps: No change

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

a. Enemy Front Lines: On northern front, enemy occupies REIDSELT (1543), INGOLSHHEIM (1441), OBERSEELACH (1840) and north of STUNDWILLER (1836). In bridgehead area enemy still holds S of DRUSSENHEIM (1517), HERRLISHEIM (1214), OFFENDORF (1312) and GAMBESHEIM (1110).

b. Units in Contact: 21st Pz Rcn Bn; Battle groups under command of 553rd VG Div; KG VON LOEWEN.

c. Reserves and other Forces Capable of Intervention: The remainder of the 21st Pz Div can be expected to follow its Rcn Bn to the WISSELBOURG area. The 245th VG Div, out of contact for the past few days, is a likely infantry division candidate to accompany the 21st Pz Div to this area.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

a. General Summary: During the night a 14 man enemy patrol probed STATTMATTEN (1921) and at 0500 hrs elements of a Company of the 232nd Inf were reported surrounded in the town. One platoon of the 79th Rcn Troop supported by a platoon of light tanks recaptured the town around noon, relieving the friendly troops and capturing 60 Pws, including 4 officers. Our outposts vic 149419 and 160403 were hit by strong enemy patrols with half track support. The outposts were reestablished during the day but the enemy hit again at 1800 hrs and forced one outpost back into the MLR. Patrol activity continued during the day on the front of the 222nd Inf with several fire fights reported. Patrols were also active vic STUNDWILLER and the 3rd Bn, 313th Inf captured some enemy and inflicted numerous casualties to enemy groups in the area during the afternoon. Some enemy mortar fire was received vic 135433 at 0845 hrs and 151146 at 1510 hrs. Tracked vehicular movement was heard east of the RHINE RIVER at 1100 hrs. 242nd Inf patrols observed no enemy movement from an CP at 212362 and found NIEDERRODERN (2334) and KESSELDORF (2430) clear at 1400 hrs although civilians stated that a 5 man enemy patrol had just left the latter town to return to SELTZ (2732). The enemy offered considerable resistance in the bridgehead area but SESSENHEIM (1822) and STATTMATTEN were recaptured during the morning by the 79th Rcn Troop and the 314th Inf took ROHRWILLER (1217) and cleaned up the southern half of DRUSSENHEIM taking approximately 40 Pws. A small counterattack SE of ROHRWILLER was broken up by arty fire. Elements of TF LINDEN encountered stiff opposition vic GAMBESHEIM and a counterattack forced our troops west to the canal. Reports indicated that the enemy was using tanks in the GAMBESHEIM area. Arty fire was received in the 222nd Inf sector with the heaviest fire at 1900 hrs. Some enemy infiltration was attempted after dark in the left flank of this regiment.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. Pws evacuated through PM: 145
- b. Pws evacuated through medical channels 3
- c. Total Pws to date: 21,311
- d. Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, P. enclosure, Inf Regts, HAGUENAU and civilian road patrols.
- e. No enemy tanks destroyed during period. The 222nd Inf reported knocking out one enemy halftrack by rifle grenade fire.
- f. Elements of the 313th Inf, operating with the 45th Div, captured 129 Pws today, bringing their total to well over 300 since operating in that sector. In addition it has severely mauled two bns of the 361st Div.
- g. 45th Div sector: Enemy troops dug in E of LIGHTENBERG (R8235) remained defensive but estimated 100 Pws taken in that area. Enemy became aggressive in PHILLIPSBURG (R742) with small attacks toward the town. Enemy continues to hold out in part of WINGEN (R7335). Elsewhere close contact continues. (45th Div)

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Authority: *WFO 736017*
By: *SB* NAVA Date: *10/1/80*

h. Weather Forecast: 7 Jan: Light snow beginning in morning and continuing intermittently throughout most of day. Sky cloudy throughout day. Visibility 1 mile at dawn improving slightly to 2-3 miles during day. Min Temp: 26°.

8 Jan: Generally broken cloudiness with rain and snow showers during afternoon, visibility 3-5 miles. Min Temp: 27°.

4. EMERGENCY CAPABILITIES

a. To conduct aggressive patrolling to be followed by an attack up to bn strength if a weak spot is found. Anytime after 072400 Jan to employ elements of the 21 Pz Div in an attack, possibly followed by the 245th VG Div.

b. To reinforce the bridgehead area with approximately 2 bns during night Jan 6/7.

c. To attack in attempt to expand present bridgehead.

d. To defend present bridgehead.

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G-2

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CONSOLIDATED IFA ANNEX TO G-2 REPORT NO 180.

1. Unit Identification

Unit	PWs	Place	Capture	Date
Company Lorenz	21	Stattmatten	79 Ren	6 Jan
Co Drechzigheimer	2	Rohrwiller	232 Inf	"
Co Zar	1	"	"	"
Einheit Walter	1	"	"	"
Battle Group LOEWEN	3	Stundwiller	1 Co, 313	"
3rd Co, 291st Inf Repl Tng Bn	1	Stattmatten	314 Inf	"
1st Co, I Bn A/V	59	Gambsheim	232 Inf	"
Co Seifert	6	Stattmatten	79 Ren	"
Co Menzel	8	"	"	"
Co Stuermlinger	6	"	"	"
Co Wimmer	6	"	"	"
Hq Bn Hoppe	15	"	"	"
Signal Sec, 118th March Bn	1	vic Hunsbach	315 Inf	"
1st Co, Bn Schmidt (Wehrkreis Unterfuhrer Lehrgang)	7	of Weyersheim	232 Inf	"
2nd Co, Bn Schmidt	5	"	"	"

2. Deserter PWs, in Civilian Clothes, apprehended by 79th CIC Detachment

Unit	PWs	Last Unit Location at	Date
3rd Army NCO School	1	Teschen, Poland	27 Nov
Repair Co, 155th Pz Arty Regt	1	Caen	6 Aug
5th Non Repl Bn	1	Stolp, Germany	24 Dec
TOTAL PWs PROCESSED	145		

3. Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition

Deserter PWs were all in civilian clothes and were apprehended by the 79th CIC Det, and were last with their units on the date and at the places indicated above. PWs were all Germans who either forged or received furlough papers to border towns and then deserted to American troops or went home and donned civilian clothes.

PWs of Bn Schmidt stated the Bn was assembled in Freistadt and crossed the RHINE RIVER at 137096 the morning of 5 Jan in assault boats. Mission of the unit was to occupy Gambsheim and secure South flank of the landing force, with the 2nd Co. Personnel was drawn from Wehrkreis Unterfuhrer Lehrgang (Sub NCO school). PWs state that only the 1st and 2nd Cos came across the RHINE RIVER and that the other Co was held back when heavy resistance was met. PW states that both companies suffered heavy losses and that the original strength of the two companies was 250 men of which approx 1/3 were casualties. PW states that after they occupied Gambsheim the Bn was to move on and take up positions in Weyersheim. Units advanced along the road from Gambsheim to Weyersheim and were stopped at approx 075119 and called for help. A unit of company size with the name of Einheit Walter was sent up as reinforcement with a strength of approx 80 men. Einheit Walter, according to PW, was virtually destroyed. PWs of Einheit Walter stated that they were caught in MG and tank crossfire and that there were at least 65 killed, wounded or captured.

(Cont'd)

Signal Section, 118th Marsch Bn has a strength of 25 men and was organized in Coblenz one month ago. The Signal section joined the 118th Marsch Bn in Darmstadt and came to Berg Zabern on 18 Dec where the entire Bn was employed to occupy pillboxes of the Siegfried Line vic of the towns of Berg Zabern, Doerenbach, Bollenburn and Nieder Schlettbach. PW sent out with 24 men to Weiller to establish a radio station there with call signal of Siegfried III. Call sign of the Bn Hq is G-6G in Berg Zabern. Bn has a strength of 4 Co's for a total of 450 men. Bn trains are in Niederschlettenbach (085540). Bn kitchen at Bollenborn (145555). PW states that he heard noises of tracked vehicles, possibly tanks in vic of Berg Zabern on 2 Jan.

I Bn E/V is composed of 3 companies with a total strength of approx 300 men and was assembled in Freistatt on 4 Jan in preparation of a crossing of the Rhine at 137096. Mission of the Bn was to occupy Gamsheim. PW states that many casualties were suffered in the fight for Gamsheim and that after it had been won, the 1st Co was put into position S of Gamsheim, the 2nd Co West and the 3rd Co, North. PW states that the town was attacked from the South and the 1st Co was destroyed. 59 PWs were taken from the 1st Co and the remainder of the Co was either wounded or killed. PW states that another attack on the village also came from the Northwest, and that he saw many wounded from the 2nd or 3rd Cos, being evacuated across the Rhine River.

PW of the 3rd Co, 291st Inf Repl Eng Bn states that his company is on the East bank of the Rhine River in the vic of Schwarzbach. PW has been on more than 5 patrols with a mission of finding strength of units occupying Drusenheim and Statmmatten in the past two weeks, and always reported towns clear. PW grew weary of shuttling across the Rhine and deserted on last mission, which was on night of 3-4 Jan.

Co Zar is an Engineer Co formed from men of the 27th Engr Repl Tng Bn and was split up into 4 platoons and attached to the I Bn E/V. Mission of PWs platoon was to sweep road leading from Gamsheim to River, of mines and repair where necessary. PW was an Alsatian and deserted as soon as he crossed the Rhine.

Battle Group von Loewen has a present strength of 50 men, according to PWs. PWs state that all GAF personnel has been withdrawn from the unit and that the unit is under the tactical control of the 1st Volksturm Bn. PW was part of a 5 man patrol sent out with a mission to determine enemy strength and disposition in vic of Stundwiller. PW states that patrol made rcn of Hapsweyer, Niederlauterback and Stundwiller but all they found was 2 packs of Chesterfields and plenty of American fire in Stundwiller. PW states that only one man of the patrol escaped. CP and entire Battle Group von Loewen has now moved to Trimbach.

Bn Hoppe was a hastily organized Bn with a strength of approx 200-250 men with mission of crossing the Rhine at 231211 and occupying Statmmatten. Bn crossed on 5 Jan between hours of 1300-1800. Bn consisted of Co Lorenz, Co Menzel and two half strength companies named Co Biefert and Co Wimmer. Co Sturminger consisting of approx 55 Volksturm was later called up as reinforcements. PWs believed Statmmatten and vic to be held only lightly by rear-guard units that were protecting American withdrawals. 4 of 5 Bn officers, including the Bn CO, were captured, remaining officer was wounded. Bn CO states that the Bn is part of Regiment Biefert or Biefrank which is under the tactical control of the staff of the 553rd VG Div. PW states that Regiment Biefert has one other Bn of approx strength of Bn Hoppe, which was likely to follow Bn Hoppe. All units including the Bn were named after their commanders. Bn Hoppe was originally formed 10-15 Dec 44 with a strength of two companies. The Bn strength varied from time to time sometimes having 6 companies and sometimes having as little as one. Bn CO states that his Bn at the time of crossing the Rhine had a strength of 2 full companies and two half companies with a total personnel of 200-250 men. Attack took the German troops by surprise and estimates as to casualties vary from 30-120 men. PWs state that besides 65 prisoners taken from the Bn he counted at least 27 dead or wounded. Bn CO states that his unit was to get food from the town of Statmmatten itself, until supplies could be transported across the Rhine.

Deserter PW in civilian clothes states that unit wearing the number 111 on shoulder straps moved from Kehl to Freistatt. PW also states that he saw an

(O-V-E-R)

SS Div CP on 26 Dec in Sondheim (073952) containing a General Lt (Major General) and believed the Division to be either a mountain or panzer type. PW heard that there was an SS Police Division of Brigade in reserve at Freistatt. (reliability of information above, given by deserter, is dated 26 Dec, is mostly hearsay and is considered fair).

4. Morale:

Fair to Good. Morale in general good, with morale in Volksturm units running from fair to very low.

5. Supply

Supply adequate in units in western part of sector, only complaint being of poor and inadequate quantities of food issued by the 1st Volksturm Bn. Units crossing the river carried enough ammo and food supplies for one day, expecting to be resupplied from the East side of the Rhine.

6. Miscellaneous

Pks of I Bn A/V were promised the support of V-1, 300 bombers and one SS Arm Div. Personnel of units contacted were of many and varied types, formed into hastily organized Bns. Bn Hoppe was composed mainly of men from 5th Transport Repl Tng Bn and the 390th Inf Repl Tng Bn, but other miscellaneous units also sent men to Bn Hoppe. Troops were largely of the middle age group and in general had been in the Army for periods ranging from 4 to 8 weeks. Some men interrogated had only 14 days infantry training. Bn Hoppe crossed the Rhine with two 80mm mortars which were employed much too late according to Bn HQ. Later interrogation indicated that these mortars had been manned by members of the Volksturm who had had only 5 days of training.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE ITEMS

2nd Armored and 2nd Panzer

The meeting of the US 2nd Armored Division and the German 2nd Panzer Division was a fitting comparison of Allied and German armored might. Each was an able representative of the armored divisions of its army. For three days the engagement continued, involving hundreds of small battles. By 26 Dec the German onslaught began to falter, stopped and gradually withdrew, losing heavily in men and materiel. The following figures will give some idea of the destruction suffered by the 2nd Panzer Division during the period 23 Dec and 27 Dec. It is estimated the division strength just before this four-day period was approx 8000 men and 100 tanks:

Men taken.....	1,050
Estimated killed.....	2,000-2,500
Tanks destroyed.....	52
Tanks captured.....	3
Artillery pieces destroyed...	6
Artillery pieces captured...	12
AT guns destroyed.....	8
Assault guns destroyed.....	4
Assault guns captured.....	1
Vehicles destroyed.....	121 (incl 30 armored vehicles)
Vehicles captured.....	69 (incl 10 armored vehicles)

(1st US Inf Div)

BBC NEWSCAST AS OF 062400

WESTERN FRONT: The Allied attack on a 30 mile front on the North flank of the German salient made some gains during the day. However, at the western end of the salient some ground was lost to a German counterattack. In Northern Alsace the enemy thrust has been stopped.

EASTERN FRONT: The Russians have continued to defeat enemy attacks to force a breakthrough to BUDAPEST. In BUDAPEST more progress was made with the Russians taking 170 more city blocks and 1600 Pws.

SOUTHERN FRONT: The Eighth Army has made progress North of NAFUNK, while W of the city, enemy counterattacks have been beaten back.

PACIFIC THEATER: The Japs are beginning to speak of a coming American attack on LUZON following yesterday's seizure of MARINDUQUE Island. The Japs say that three invasion fleets are nearing LUZON.

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Authority: DDO 736017
By: 36 NAVA: Date: _____

32
11 Jan 45

FROM: 062200 Jan 45
TO: 072200 Jan 45
By 79th Inf Div
In the Field
072400 January 1945

No. 181

LEPS: No Change.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy Front Lines: On northern front enemy occupies CLAMMELM (1144), INGOLSHALL (1441), MOCHBACH (1837), STUNWILLER (1836), and BULL (2035). NIEDER-RODDEHN (2234) is not held by the enemy but SULTZ (2734) is reported to have 200 troops in it. In bridgehead area enemy holds southern half of DIBSHEIM (1217), HENNELSMELM (1214), OFFENDORF (1312), GALLBHEIM (1110) and BATTENHOFFEN (1007).

b. Units in Contact: 21st Pz Gren Bn and 3rd Co, 192nd Pz Gren Regt of the 21st Pz Div; Battlegroups under command of 553rd VG Div and 405th Div.

c. Reserves and other Forces Capable of Intervention: With the identification of the 192nd Pz Gren Regt today, its sister regiment, the 195th Pz Gren Regt, may be expected to make an appearance shortly. There were indications that one enemy buildup was being made in the INGOLSHALL - MOCHBACH - STUNWILLER area.

2. ALLY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD.

a. General Summary:

(1) Northern Front: The night was quiet until 0500 hrs when vehicular activity was heard. A listening post was driven in by an enemy patrol at 100446. At 0700 hrs the enemy started to apply pressure on the 3rd Bn, 313th Inf sector and with tanks and infantry drove our outposts from MOCHBACH and STUNWILLER after street fighting. During the day an estimated 15 tanks, including 4k VI and 4k V, operated in the INGOLSHALL - BULL area. Five of these tanks were reported knocked out or disabled by mines, AT guns and arty fire. Five small infantry attacks were made in the 313th Inf sector and all were repulsed. Due to our arty and mortar fire enemy activity decreased during the afternoon although movement of Germans into INGOLSHALL was observed shortly before dark. The enemy was attempting to retrieve his tanks in the minefield at 1845 hrs although the positions were being harassed by our fire. Patrols of the 242nd Inf observed some enemy movement N. of NIEDERRODDEHN and two members of an enemy patrol were captured in the town. KACHENDORF was also found clear. Enemy patrols were also active on the left flank of the 222nd Inf and some fire was received from a direct fire weapon. Heavy vehicular traffic was reported moving from STUNWILLER to BULL at 2045 hrs.

(2) Bridgehead Area: The 314th Inf received some arty during the first part of the period and arty was also reported in HENNELSMELM (0512). The enemy remained aggressive and attacked DIBSHEIM with an estimated 8-10 tanks and one bn of infantry which succeeded in capturing the southern half of the town. South-east of DIBSHEIM (1217) the enemy also attacked with infantry supported by five tanks, 4 of which were destroyed. The other enemy tank was destroyed in DIBSHEIM. Four of the tanks were knocked out by Co B, 47th Tn Bn and one by the 813th TD Bn with two probably destroyed. During the night the bridgehead was reinforced with tanks, SF guns and T guns with the GALLBHEIM bridgehead being the apparent main point of crossing. The 79th Rec Troop reported AUBENHEIM (2023) and MONTLACHHEIM (1924) clear during the morning but located a defended road block at 233235 and enemy dug in from 239244 to 265245. Another Rec patrol reached 194205 at 1720 hrs and observed an occupied pillbox at 188202 and heard enemy movement along the stream in the vicinity. Elements of the 232nd Inf captured 2 PWs from a 5 man enemy patrol that entered STATTLEHEIM (1921) at 1800 hrs. The French attack on BATTENHOFFEN met considerable resistance and after destroying two enemy tanks and capturing 60 lbs of force withdrew to KILSTETT. After dark considerable enemy vehicular activity was heard in the DIBSHEIM - HENNELSMELM area.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. PWs evacuated through FL: 96

b. PWs evacuated through medical channels: 31

- c. Total PWs to date: 21,438
- d. 10 enemy tanks destroyed or disabled during period with two probables. Total enemy tanks destroyed to date: 94.
- e. Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, PW enclosure, Inf Regt's, HAGUENAU and civilian road patrols.
- f. 45th Div sector: WINGEN (Q7335) cleared of enemy and approximately 63 PWs taken. No developments in the PHILLIPSBOURG - BAERENTHAL area. Approximately 100 enemy observed digging in via Q778395 and from Q775385 to Q775388. Arty and mortar fire increased on Corps West flank.
- g. Weather forecast - Jan 8: Clear at dawn becoming partly cloudy with snow showers over entire area in afternoon. Visibility 1-2 miles in snow improving to 8-10 miles elsewhere. Continued cold. Min temp: 15 degrees.
- Jan 9: Showers over VOGES. Visibility 8-10 miles lowering in snow to 1-2 miles. Continued cold. Min temp: 18 degrees.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

- a. To continue probing attacks to be followed by an attack up to division strength by 21st Pz Div on northern front.
- b. To reinforce the bridgehead area and continue attacks to expand the present bridgehead.
- c. To defend present bridgehead.

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CONSOLIDATED IFW ANNEX TO G-2 REPORT NO. 181

1. Unit Identification:

Unit	PW	Captured By	Place	Date
Bn Hoppe	4	232nd Inf	STATTMATTEN	6 Jan
Co Seifert, Bn Hoppe	11	232nd Inf	HUNTZENHEIM	6 Jan
Co Lorenz, Bn Hoppe	2	232nd Inf	STATTMATTEN	6 Jan
2nd Co, VII Bn E/V	35	314th Inf	DRUSSENHEIM	7 Jan
1st Co, VII Bn E/V	6	314th Inf	DRUSSENHEIM	6 Jan
3rd Co, VII Bn E/V	13	314th Inf	DRUSSENHEIM	7 Jan
1st Co, 405th AT Bn	9	314th Inf	DRUSSENHEIM	7 Jan
2nd Btry, Battle Group "Tauchnitz"	2	242nd Inf	NIEDERHOLERN	7 Jan
1st Co, I Bn E/V (also called Bn "Zieres")	1	314th Inf	vic KILSTET	7 Jan
Bn Freutler (also Wehrkreis Unterfuhrer Lehrgang)	9	232nd Inf	111072	6 Jan
3rd Co, 21st Pz Ren Bn	2	315th Inf	146428	6 Jan
1127th Fortress Arty Bn (also Einheit "Bising")	2	314th Inf	DRUSSENHEIM	7 Jan
Total PWs processed	95			

2. Deserted PW in Civilian Clothes Apprehended by 79th CIC Det:

Unit	Pl	Last Unit Location	Date
1st Btry, 175th AA Bn,			
104th AA Regt, 15th AA Div	1	BUDAPEST	1 Nov

Above PW was last with his unit on 1 Nov in BUDAPEST, received furlough to FORST-EMUD in ALSACE and deserted. Apprehended in UERBETSCHDORF.

3. Unit Strength, Organization and Disposition:

Bn Hoppe PWs state that the bn was disorganized by our counterattacks vic STATTMATTEN and the capture of 4 of 5 officers. PWs state that the bn is now commanded by a Major STALDION and it is probable that the name of the bn will be changed to Bn Staldion. PWs state that the remainder of the Bn was withdrawn to be regrouped for a new attack on STATTMATTEN and HUNTZENHEIM. One squad of Co SEIFERT was left in HUNTZENHEIM. PWs state that the co has a present strength of 55 men and had an original mission of holding HUNTZENHEIM. PWs of Co Lorenz captured in HUNTZENHEIM and STATTMATTEN. PWs from HUNTZENHEIM (201235) state that after Co CO was captured they received a new mission by messenger to take and hold HUNTZENHEIM. Co Lorenz, according to PWs, has a present strength of 45 men after

(Cont'd)

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having received Volkssturm replacements. PWs state that both co's withdrew from the towns they held after heavy fire fights.

VII Bn E/V was originally formed from Alarm Co's from the SIEGFRIED LINE in the town of OOS (337215). Bn crossed RHINE RIVER at 135096. PWs state that the original mission of the Bn was to take and hold DUESSENHEIM, the 1st Co on the S of the village, 2nd Co to the N and 3rd to the W. PWs state that the Bn has suffered heavy losses and many have been taken prisoner. Each company is equipped with 9-12 LMGs and rifles. PW states that no hvy wpns had yet been brought over the RHINE, but that they were promised support of SP guns and tanks with arty following a few days later. The 1st Co now has about 38 men, the 2nd Co 50 men and the 3rd Co 36 men. PWs state that no replacements have been received. Co CP of 3rd Co captured in paper factory S DUESSENHEIM, Co CO seriously wounded and captured together with the 1st Sgt.

1st Co, 405th AT Bn, according to PWs, belongs to the 405th Administrative Div and was formed from personnel drawn from the 35th AT Repl Tng Bn and attached to VII Bn E/V for AT protection. PWs state that the co has a strength of 120 men who came across the RHINE with 34 bazookas. One rather enthusiastic and talkative PW stated that 3 SP 75mm guns were in vic DUESSENHEIM, but has never seen them. One squad was captured while protecting Co CP of 3rd Co, VII Bn E/V in factory.

Battle Group Tauchnitz is now located in NORTH AM RHINE vic of bridge at MAXIMILIANBAU. The two PWs taken from this unit had been sent to RIEDERKOBLEN to select new area and mark route for move of Battle Group. PWs state that the unit is now composed of 3 batteries each having 3-88mm guns which are used as arty. PW states that the guns are Russian 85mm AA guns rebored so that 88mm ammo can be used. Unit has a strength of approx 200 men and receives its orders from the arty units that are in the sector. Formerly received orders from 256th Arty when atchd to it in vic HUGENAU.

1st Co, I Bn E/V (also known as Bn "Lieres") PW was deserter NCO who stated that almost the entire co was destroyed. Approx 70 PWs have been taken from this unit. Original mission of the co was to take GAMBHEIM. Their attacks were unsuccessful and PW states that Bn withdrew to a line along the RHINE at 114092 and dug in there. PW deserted 061200 Jan.

Bn Treutler is a bn of 3 co's organized from members of the Army NCO School "Ettlingen" and Wehrkreis Unterfuhrer Lehrgang (Sub-NCO School) with an approx strength of 350 men. The Bn was formerly known as Bn Schmidt, but the two bn's are identical. Mission of the bn was to secure the bridgehead's S flank and extend to KILSTETT if possible. PWs state that the Bn consisting of 2 inf co's supported by the 4th (hvy) Co is dug in vic 115078. Bn strength now approx 300 men. 4th Co, Bn Treutler has 6 mortars (2-80mm, 3-120mm) set up along the IL RIVER, exact location unknown.

3rd Co, 21st Pz Rcn Bn arrived in RIEDSELTZ morning of 6 Jan. PW states that only one plat of 30 men carried in trucks arrived in RIEDSELTZ from vic PIRMASANS. Patrol of plat strength was sent out to determine the extent of the American withdrawal in the sector with the mission of going to hill at 146425. PWs state that there are 20 half-tracks in co, with approx 100 men and 20 LMGs. PWs say that the Div is likely to follow in a few days. The strength of the Rcn Bn is about 500 men with the 4th Co being a hvy co. PW did not know the wpns of the 4th Co but stated that the first three co's were half-track co's with about 20 half-tracks each. PW states that the unit was last in contact with the enemy 10 days ago vic SAEHLAUTERN. PW states that the Rcn Bn has no tanks.

1127th Fortress Arty Bn has approx 85 men and 4-122mm gun hows (Russian). The entire bn has only one str which is now also called Einheit Bising. Two observers were sent across the river to establish an OP which they did in the paper factory below DUESSENHEIM. Both O and NCO were captured and stated that they directed fire missions (6) up until the time of capture, one mission being fire upon American tanks. Officer, formerly a member of 1514th Arty Bn which is in vic of RASTATT, was suddenly alerted two nights ago and told to go across the river with VII Bn E/V to direct arty fire in their support.

4. Morale: Generally good although somewhat lower than previously reported. Lack of food and success being main reasons for lowered morale.

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By: 36 NAVA Date:

IPW ANNEX (Cont'd):

5. Supply: All PWs interrogated stated that they have not received any supplies since original landings were made. Some men of Bn Hoppe received a hot meal last night but no other food has been received in the other bridgehead. PWs state that 100-130 rds of ammo were carried by each rifleman when river crossing was made and that no ammo replenishments have been received. Some PWs claimed to be starving and stated that they had not eaten in three days.

6. Enemy Installations:

Bridge at LAUTERBURG has been repaired by German Volksturm.

Bridge at SELTZ still out and no work in progress at 070800 Jan.

Volksturm in SELTZ.

Co. of Police or SS (200 men) in MEMPRECHTSHOFEN (185091).

Kitchen and trains in GAMESHORST (20850700).

4-122mm gun hows (1127th Fortress Arty) at forest edge at 16150765.

2 batteries of arty well camouflaged running along line 205140 - 199120.

7. Miscellaneous: The previously reported mystery unit of men wearing 111 on shoulder straps apparently solved by deserter PW of I Bn E/V. PW states that the Bn has many men who were taken from the 111th Repl Bn which sends men to the 111th Inf, 35th Inf Div in RUSSIA. PW states that many of the men sent to the I Bn E/V from the 111th Repl Bn were members of the 111th Inf who had been wounded and were to be sent back to the 111th Inf and still wore 111 on their shoulder straps. PW states that he talked to civilian who stated that enemy armor was concentrated in ACHERN (2503). One PW stated that there are approx 3 barges used for crossing and 10-12 rubber assault boats vic 13750970 and states that a 70 ton ferry is to be put in operation tomorrow.

Pozit Action

The following two extracts indicate in part that the enemy is very conscious of a new artillery weapon:

"Between 1730 and 1830 on 22 Dec two PsW from the 277th VG Div noticed that nine out of every ten artillery shells would burst at a height of about thirty feet. There were no ground bursts at all. Some of the men tried to find cover in their log covered foxholes, but even there shrapnel penetrated the logs, some of which were up to 12 inches thick. PsW said that an additional number of litter bearers were sent out the next morning to bring in the exceptionally high number of wounded and dead caused by air bursts. Other PsW put particular stress on the accuracy of the artillery barrage laid on their position. They said that every yard was covered by shrapnel; no duds were found in the vicinity." (V Corps Arty S-2 Bulletin)

"Germans think we are using a new type of shell. They describe it as an air burst. The results of these new shells on the German bodies and minds are very effective. One Co. suffered 5 dead and 20 wounded after the explosion of only one of these air-bursting shells." (First Army PWI Report)

(VII Corps Arty)

RBC NEWS AS OF 072400 JAN

WESTERN FRONT: On the N flank of the German salient limited progress was made with 1-3 mile advances being made by the First Army. The main achievement was the cutting of an enemy main supply route at three points. The Germans are now forced to use another route further S which is under arty fire. At the W end of the salient heavy fighting was reported by British troops while on the S flank there was little change despite more enemy counterattacks. The waist of the salient is now 12 miles wide.

In the Seventh Army sector the enemy's wedge into the American lines SE of BITCHE has been checked with hard fighting taking place on the W side of this wedge. S of WISSENBURG the enemy probed the lines to which the Seventh Army troops fell back after the attack further W. The enemy's bridgehead N of STAS-BOURG was under heavy arty fire, but here bad weather prevented such air support.

EASTERN FRONT: Repeated German counterattacks have forced the Russians to evacuate ESZTERGOM but on the other side of the DANUBE and in BUDAPEST the Red Army has made gains.

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G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

79
10 Jan 45

FROM: 07200 Jan 45
TO: 08200 Jan 45
By 79th Inf Div
In the Field
08200 January 1945

No. 182

Maps: No change

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

a. Enemy Front Lines: On Northern front enemy holds GLEIBURG (1144), INGOLSHAIN (1441), SCHBACH (1837), STUNNWEILER (1836) and M. 1443. In bridgehead area enemy occupies southern half of DRUSCHMILL (1517), and ISHBLA (1214), OFFENBACH (1512), G. K. M. H. (1110) and BETTENDORF (1109).

b. Units in Contact: 21st Pz Div; Battle groups under command of 553rd VG Div.

c. Reserves and Other Forces Capable of Intervention: 2 Pz Div captured by the 36th Abn Gr were from the 937th Regt of 245th VG Div and stated that the 1st and 2nd Co's were in GLEIBURG.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

a. General Summary:

(1) Northern Front: The 3rd Bn, 313th Inf received some mortar fire during the night and a small enemy patrol was reported in the same sector at 0528 hrs. At 0700 hrs elements of the 125th and 192nd Pz Gren Regts attacked the 3rd Bn, 313th Inf, but the attack was broken up by small arms and arty fire. Enemy infantry supported by 10 tanks again attacked the same place at 0800 hrs but after suffering severe casualties in men and tanks, broke off the assault shortly before noon. When the Germans attempted to reorganize in the GLEIBURG-H. CH area, 12 P-47's hit the town with unobserved results. During the afternoon infantry and tanks were observed via 175378, 172396 and 180412, and were taken under arty fire. A patrol of the 222nd Inf received heavy small arms fire in GLEIBURG at 1430 hrs. The 313th TD Bn knocked out one enemy halftrack and 10 to 15 infantry via 149421. Three enemy tanks were knocked out and two disabled by the 627th TD Bn, bazooka and arty fire. The Germans were observed digging in around GLEIBURG at dusk. A patrol of the 242nd Inf ran into automatic fire at 211392. 2 B-262 planes were over the Div sector at 1350 hrs and strafing was reported in MITTSCHHUTTEN (1533).

(2) Bridgehead Area: The enemy continued to resist strongly in the bridgehead area. The 314th Inf met heavy small arms and arty fire in attempting to establish a bridgehead south of the river in M. 1443. Our troops made some progress via 149172 and repulsed enemy attempts to cross the river from 138170 to 140168. Infantry elements of CC B, 12th Arm Div advanced to within one kilometer north of H. R. D. B. H. The 79th Recn Troop reported 14 enemy seen entering pillbox at FT LOUIS (2322) at 1130 hrs, and cleared REPPENHILL (2327) in the afternoon. Although some SP guns were reported west of the RHINE RIVER no tanks were reported. Air OPs reported considerable movement back and forth on the RHINE RIVER.

3. MISC. NOTES

a. PWs evacuated through Pz: 57
b. PWs evacuated through medical channels: 6
c. Total PWs to date: 21,501
d. 3 enemy tanks destroyed during period with 2 probables. Total tanks destroyed to date: 97.

e. Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, P. Enclosure, Inf Regts, H. R. D. B. H. and civilian road patrols.

f. During the past 2 days four enemy agents have been apprehended by units and the CIC. Two were women (one a Russian and the other a Luxembourger) and two were men (French). All were low grade agents. Units are reminded that no one must be allowed to pass through our lines into enemy territory and all coming from enemy territory into our lines must be evacuated through PW channels.

g. 45th Div Sector: No change in enemy dispositions or attitude. Ground reports give no evidence of build-up or unusual activity in REPPENHILL-M. 1443-B. H. - D. H. M. C. H. area.

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h. Weather Forecast: 9 Jan - Intermittent snow showers in afternoon.

Min Temp: 18°.

10 Jan - Increasing cloudiness in afternoon and night. Visibility

3 - 4 miles by noon. Min Temp: 15°.

4. Unit Strength

a. To conduct aggressive patrolling on northern front to determine strength, location and dispositions.

b. To attack on the northern front with one bn of inf. supported by 10 tanks.

c. To defend present bridgehead area.

d. To withdraw from the bridgehead area.

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DISTRICT 10:

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CONSOLIDATED INF. DATA TO G-2 FROM IC REPORT NO. 182

Unit Identifications

Unit	Pls	Place	Reported	Date
1st Co, 1st Pz Div	1	0870125	79 Nov	8 Jan
Co Lorenz, 1st Pz Div	8	0870125	79 Nov	7 Jan
Co Menzel, 1st Pz Div	7	"	"	"
7th Co, 1st Pz Div	18	vic STUMMILLER	30 Nov, 313	8 Jan
5th Co, 125th Pz Gr	17	"	"	"
3rd Co, 125th Pz Gr	1	"	"	"
1st Btry, 125th Arty, 1st Pz Div	1	"	"	"
Division Brandenburg	2	0870125	79 Nov	"

Deserter Pws in Civilian Clothes - apprehended by 79th CIC Detachment

Unit	Pls	Last Unit Location at	Date
Transport Regt Southeast	2	0870125, 0870125	24 Nov
TOPL. Pz. PRAXESS	37		

Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition

Pws of Transport Regiment Southeast were last with their unit on 24 Nov at 0870125, TUGSLEVA, received furlough to vic of 0870125 and deserted to the Americans.

Pws of 1st Pz Div were stragglers from that unit collected in various cellars in the towns of 0870125 and 0870125. Pws of Co Lorenz captured in 0870125 stated that they were waiting for the return of the Americans, which they could expect any day. Pws state that Co Lorenz is virtually destroyed and last saw members of their company making their way north, and also trying to cross the river. Pws of Co Menzel stated that their company now has an approx strength of 35 men remaining, who were last seen heading north.

Bn Oberheide was organized 6 Dec in vic of Baden Cos, with two companies of approx 80 men each. It states that the Bn crossed the river on 5 Jan at 1130125. It states that the original mission of the Bn was to reinforce a unit at 0870125, but ran into heavy opposition and withdrew to positions at 1130125 to 1130125. Bn Oberheide is under the tactical control of Regiment Freimann whose CP is in pillbox at 1130125. It did not know of any higher unit control. It states that the present Bn strength is now approx 160 men.

5th Co, 125th Pz Gr left vic of 0870125 approx 4 days ago, travelled to this sector by way of 0870125, 0870125 and 0870125. Pws state there were 3 Panther tanks in 0870125 7 Jan. 5th Co took STUMMILLER yesterday and were to attack and take 0870125 0870125 Jan. Company was subjected to heavy arty fire during the night and was caught in cross-fire of hvy MG. Company arrived with a strength of approx 85 men and some attached engineers. Pws state that the Co suffered very heavy losses and estimates of strength range from completely destroyed to 35 men. Co A states that he decided to surrender because he had approx 20 very severely wounded men in building who would die within a few hours if they did not receive prompt medical attention. Co A states that he could not take wounded because of

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heavy arty and MG fire. Pns state entire 2nd Bn, 125th Pz Gr is in area STUNDILLER-SCHBACH. Bn strength estimated at 325 men.

7th Co, 192nd Pz Gr Regt was reorganized in KANDEL in the middle of December then moved to vic BITCHE, stayed there two days and moved to INGOLSHEIM through GIESSELBOURG. Co attacked this morning from ASCHBACH with the 5th Co, to take OBERRODERN from the north with an approx strength of 55 men. Pns state both Co's suffered very heavy losses and have a present company strength of 15 men. Pns place Bn strength at approx 250 men, who were to withdraw to vic of ASCHBACH. The 6th Co, with 2-80mm mortars and 7 LGs was divided and supported the attack of the 5th and 7th Co's.

3rd Co, 125th Pz Gr Regt arrived from LAMM at INGOLSHEIM approx 3 days ago. Pn states that he was part of a 5 man patrol that was sent out evening of 7 Jan to determine enemy strength and disposition in vic of STUNDILLER, LAMMILLER and GIESSELBOURG. Result of patrol, 1 dead, one captured and 3 wounded. Pn started out from company position on reverse slope of hill at 174378. Pn states that the entire company including the CP is located there, and it is very cold. Stated that fires were built there last night to keep warm. Pn estimates company strength at approx 85 men armed with 9 LGs and rifles. Pn states that the Co received 30 replacements from the 10th Pz Gr Repl Tng on 20 Dec, who were mostly young men with very little training. Some of the replacements received their tng in Reichs Arbeitsdienst (Labor Service).

Pns of Division Braubenburg were native Frenchmen and spoke no German and were interrogated by 79th Air Mil Team. Both Pns were SS uniforms and had a mission of patrolling the area between SALTZ and HANAU.

4. Supplies

Food and ammo supply of 21st Pz Div excellent. Pns claimed that they received two hot meals per day. Pns claim they were issued new winter clothing approx 1 week ago, and it consisted of a heavy wool coverall, 4 pairs of heavy socks, heavy gloves and boots. Pns state that a field kitchen has been set up in ASCHBACH. Pns of an Hopp state that only one meal has been supplied from across the RHINE since they made the crossing and no ammo has yet followed. Pn in GIESSELBOURG area stated that food and ammo comes over the river every night.

5. Morale

Morale of the 21st Pz Div generally good, but morale considerably lowered in units billeted in STUNDILLER, by American arty concentrations. 21st Pz has recently given security lectures and all soldiers' books were taken away and replaced by mimeographed forms giving name, rank, serial number, home address and nearest relative. Pns all somewhat reluctant to talk.

6. Personalities

	Unit	Pns
1st Lt WILCH	CO 1st Btry, 155 Arty Regt	25354 B
Major HANSEN	Bn CO	
1st Lt FROCH	CO 3rd Co, 125th Pz Gr Regt	9033 B
Lt SCHUSTER	CO 1st Co, Bn Oberrhein	64465 B
Lt Furongki (Capt)	CO 5th Co, 125th Pz Gr Regt	37509 B
Lt Volkmann	CO, 7th Co, 192nd Pz Gr	58899 B
Capt HESTER	Bn CO	
Maj Gen FROCHTIGER	CG 21st Pz Div	

7. Miscellaneous

1st Btry, 155th Arty was last known to be in vic BITCHE. Pn left his unit there and went with 7th Com 192 Pz Gr as an observer and to acquaint himself with the terrain and disposition of the enemy. Pn states that the entire Regt is rumored to be in area. Pn states that 1st Btry Regt has rec'd weapons repl in the past 3 weeks and now has 3 Bns, 2 of which are light and one medium. The 1st and 2nd Bns have 3 btrys of 15mm how of 4 guns each. Pn states that engineers were still working on GIESSELBOURG bridge and ctm was held up 2 hrs.

SPECIAL REPORT, GERMAN SHORT RANGE AGENTS

1. Two individuals in German SS uniform and carrying Soldbucher surrendered to friendly troops in vic of ROESCHLAG (2225) on 3 Jan 45. These two men were of French nationality, one of them belonged to a French Nazi party (PNF) up to July 43, the other man, probably a former Gestapo agent in CHAMBERG withdrew to GERMANY with the German army during the summer of 1944.

(ALV. 10.1)

Special Report. German Short Range Agents (Cont'd)

2. These two men belonged to a group of 30 men (composed of Belgians, Russians, Poles and French) now stationed at GAGGENAU (4223); they were commanded by a German captain belonging to the Wehrmacht. On 3 Jan a German NOU drove them to bridge site at 293320. These men crossed the Rhine on a rubber boat with units of the Wehrmacht, crossing at that point.

3. These two PWs stated that they had been sent of reconnaissance towards REIMENHILF (2327), BITCHILLER (0918) and HUGENAU to determine the extent of the American withdrawal. These men had been told that the Allied forces had been withdrawn as far back as 20 to 30 kms from the RHINE. They had two carrier pigeons at their disposal. One message stating that no American troops had been contacted in SALTZ (2732) or LINDEN (2529) had been sent back. The other pigeon had been left with the Wehrmacht in SALTZ on 6 Jan.

4. These men stated that their information was to reach GAGGENAU, and was to be disseminated from that point. They had no contact with local tactical units and one of them was carrying with him a pass allowing him to travel without restriction and to wear civilian clothes. However it is to be noted that these men were armed with machine guns and pistols, but did not carry any explosives.

5. These men stated that a similar group of 3 men was operating in the area of REIMENHILF (2327) and another group of 4 men was operating in the area of LINDEN with a similar mission. These men believed that they had been sent across the Rhine simultaneously with the two other groups in conjunction with a coordinated attack from the ISCHING area towards the south, from the RASTATT area towards the west and from the upper Rhine area towards the north or west.

6. One of these PWs states that the group of 30 men stationed in GAGGENAU belongs to Co. NORTH of BRANDENBURG DIVISION: this BRANDENBURG DIVISION would be composed of two companies, Co. NORTH and Co. SOUTH. These two companies are being trained in MERZBACH. The duration of the course is 10 weeks. The training schedule includes use of small arms, scouting and patrolling, unarmored defense, use of explosives and a scanty outline of Allied uniforms and equipment. Field problems included capture of rail road stations and post offices. These two companies were formed of non-German citizens and their mission appears to be limited to short range information of a tactical nature. This personnel was not trusted by the German authorities and has never been given information which would be of capital interest to Allied intelligence. This personnel has never received any parachute training. It is estimated that approximately 300 agents of that type have been trained since 1 Sept. 44.

7. The other PW is a former member of the French SS Brigade CHARLES-DE GAULLE which received Panzer Grenadier training; this man joined the group stationed in GAGGENAU at the beginning of December.

8. These two men surrendered to our forces wearing German uniforms and thereby expecting to be treated as PWs. 79th CIC Detachment is conducting further investigations to secure all Counter Intelligence information to be obtained.

MAURICE HAHN
1st Lt., FA
CIC, MII Team 434

BBC NEWS AS OF 082400 JAN

EASTERN FRONT: Allied troops have kept up the pressure on all sides of the ARDENNES salient. First Army troops have occupied a 9 mile stretch of the important LAROCHE - ST. VITH road. On the S flank enemy pressure has slackened off and the infiltration NW of BASTOGNE has been wiped out.

In N ALONCE the enemy has been held and no important changes in the BITCHE sector have taken place since Saturday. S of WISSEMBOURG the enemy has been slow in following up the American withdrawal below the LAUTER RIVER, but today some German attacks were made and were beaten back. The German bridgehead above STRASBOURG has been pressed in and many casualties inflicted on the enemy. Allied artillery was active but there was also some counterbattery fire.

EASTERN FRONT: The enemy is keeping up his pressure near BASTOGNE and now also directly W of BUDAPEST, but the Russians have been repulsing the numerous enemy counterattacks. In BUDAPEST 130 city blocks were taken today and an important building captured. On the N bank of the DANUBE opposite ASZTERGON the new Russian drive continues. Good progress has been made W of the HIRON RIVER and the Red Army now has units 7 miles from KOBANOU.

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Authority: PRD 236017
By: SB NAVA Date:

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G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

56
17 Jan 45

From: 082200 Jan 45
To: 092200 Jan 45
By: 79th Inf Div
In the Field
092400 January 1945

No. 183

Maps: No change

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

a. Enemy Front Lines: On Northern front enemy holds GLASSBOURG (1144), INGOLSHHEIM (1441), ROSCHACH (1837), STUNDWILLER (1836), BURL (2035) and was being driven out of HATTEN (1733). In bridgehead area enemy occupied southern half of DRICKHEIM (1517), southern half of HERLISHEIM (1214), OFFENDORF (1312) GRAMSHHEIM (1110) and HETTENDORF (1009).

b. Units in Contact: 21st Pz Div; 25th Pz Gren Div; battle groups under command of 553rd VG Div.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

a. General Summary:

(1) Northern Front (FF half): Some flare activity was observed during the night and arty, including one phosphorous shell, fell vic 158355 at 2330 hrs. A small probing attack against the 3rd Bn, 313th Inf and 242nd Inf was repulsed before dawn, but the enemy attacked vic HATTEN with two battalions of infantry and 7 tanks shortly after. The Germans succeeded in capturing 2 pillboxes and some reached the outskirts of the town before being repulsed with severe infantry casualties and losing two tanks to arty fire. Mortar and direct weapon fire fell in the 313th Inf sector between 0600 and 0700 hrs. The enemy started to withdraw at 0940 hrs when it was apparent that the assault by the 1st Bn, 35 Pz Gr Regt and 2nd Bn, 117 Pz Gren Regt had failed. The 79th Recon Troop reported MG fire vic LAUTENHEIM (2127) at 1100 hrs. Enemy smoke shells fell vic 167407 at 1130 hrs. Two trucks and one tank, attempting to move from BURL to STUNDWILLER, were taken under arty fire and decided to forego the journey. The 25th Pz Gren Div attacked HATTEN again from the East, after an arty preparation, at 1300 hrs using 20 tanks of its organic tank bn as the striking force. HATTEN was encircled by enemy armor and some tanks reached a point south of HATTENSHOFFEN (1533) when our counterattacking force hit and caused the Germans to withdraw after knocking out 11 to 14 tanks. These tanks were KO'd by the 48th Tk Bn, the 87th TD Bn, 813th TD Bn and arty fire. By the end of the period over half of the town of HATTEN had been retaken by our troops in spite of stiff opposition. At 2000 hrs considerable tracked vehicle movement was heard between HATTEN and INGOLSHHEIM, STUNDWILLER to BURL and 188326 to EICHMAGHATEN.

(2) Bridgehead Area: HAGENAU and BISCHWILLER received some 280mm fire during the night and engineers of the 40th Engr Regt were hampered by small arms, mortar and arty fire in bridging operations vic 130168. Armored infantry of CC B, 12th Arm Div overcame considerable resistance and took many prisoners in advancing to capture part of HERLISHEIM. The 314th Inf received a heavy barrage of arty, mortar and small arms fire in DRICKHEIM at 0800 hrs and continued to be harassed during the remainder of the period. The enemy, using infantry and tanks, conducted aggressive action against 3rd Bn, 314th Inf at 1800 hrs. The 79th Recon Troop reported a 4 man enemy patrol at 103136 during the morning. The bridges at 089130 and 09361340 were reported destroyed. Of 10 tanks in the area one was destroyed with two probables, claimed by CC B and arty.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

a. PWs evacuated through PW: 105
b. PWs evacuated through medical channels: 17
c. Total PWs to date: 21,623
d. 24 enemy tanks destroyed during period, with 4 probables. Total tanks destroyed to date: 111. 2 C&K cars, one full tracked vehicle, 2 half tracks and 1 staff car were also destroyed today.

e. Location of GIC personnel: Div CP, PW enclosure, Inf Regts, HAGENAU and civilian road patrols.

f. 45th Div Sector: enemy remains in close contact NW and S of HATTENSHOFFEN (5037) where no defense from dug in positions, supported by arty, mortar and SF fire. The 36th VG Div was identified vic PHILLIPSBOURG.

- 1 -
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(U-V-C-11)

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By: 36 NAVA Date: _____

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g. Weather Forecast: 10 Jan - Increasing cloudiness in afternoon and night. Visibility 3-4 miles by noon. Min temp: 15°.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

- To conduct probing attacks on left flank of northern front.
- To attack with 2 bns of Inf and 15 tanks of 21st Pz Div in STUNDWILLER area.
- To attack with 2 Bns of Inf and 15 tanks of 25th Pz Gr Div in HATTEN area.
- To attack with 1 bn of Inf and 5 tanks in MUNTZENHEIM area.
- To defend present bridgehead area.
- To withdraw from the bridgehead area.

St. Lawrence
DOHRMANN L. C.
G-2

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CONSOLIDATED IFF INDEX TO G-2 PSYCHIC REPORT NO. 183

1. Unit Identification

Unit	Pz	Place	Captured	Date
3rd Co, 35th PzGr Regt, 25th PzGr Div	4	vic HATTEN	3d Bn, 313	9 Jan
2nd Co, 35th PzGr Regt, 25th PzGr Div	1	" "	"	"
7th Co, 119 PzGr Regt, 25th PzGr Div	1	" "	"	"
	2	" "	242 Inf	"
Hq Co, 125th PzGr Regt, 21st Pz Div	1	" "	3d Bn, 313	"
1st Co, 192 PzGr Regt, 21st Pz Div	1	HEIMELBACH	242 Inf	"
6th Co, 194 PzGr Regt, 21st Pz Div	1	vic OBERHOLBACH	3d Bn, 313	"
1st Co, 220 PzGr Regt, 21st Pz Div	2	" "	"	"
1st Co, 125 PzGr Regt, 25th PzGr Div	1	S NEUBERGERN	242 Inf	"
Co Starke, Bn Hoppe	5	ROFFENHEIM	79 Pz	"
9th Co, 2nd SS Police Regt	48	KORNILLER	56 Pz Inf	"
11th Co, 2nd SS Police Regt	20	" "	"	"
4th Co, 1119th Inf, 553rd Inf Div	4	" "	"	"
2nd Co, 1119th Inf, 553rd Inf Div	1	" "	"	"

2. Disaster Victims in Civilian Clothes apprehended by 79th CIC Detachment

Unit	Pz	Last Unit Location	Date
Communications Co, 87th Inf Repl Tngtn	1	LOEBAU, SAXONY	25 Nov
800 School, Weiburg	1	WILBURG, GERMANY	7 Dec
6th Co, 1067th VG Regt, 7 VG Div	1	WICKAU, SAXONY	6 Aug

3. Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition

Co Starke, Bn Hoppe has at present 30 men plus an attached group of 30 members of the Volksturm and is now located in NEUHAUSEL. Pz states that Co Starke is the only unit in the town of NEUHAUSEL and have the mission of holding the town. Co was organized approx 6 weeks ago in RASTATT with an original strength of 60 men. Two days ago another Lt came and took 30 men to form the nucleus of another Company. These 30 men withdrawn from the Co Starke were replaced by an equal number of Volksturm. 5 Pz captured from the unit decided that they were tired of the war and surrendered to the 79th Rec Troop. Pz did not know what German units were in surrounding area.

1st Co, 125th Pz Gr Regt, 25th Pz Gr Div arrived from vic HITTEN at EBBELBACH 2 days ago. The Company has approx 110 men and 40 Volkswagen and is armed with 6 MGs and rifles. The Company is still at EBBELBACH billeted in various houses of the town. Company last night sent out 2 patrols of 10 men each to reconnoiter the forest area south of NIEDERHOLBACH with a mission of determining enemy strength and disposition. Pz states that they crossed bridge S of NIEDERHOLBACH without difficulty. Bridge is of log construction in position of first bridge across river by American troops approx 20 yds east of blown wooden bridge. Approaches to emergency bridge in good condition and Pz commented on good job done by American engs. Pz was separated from patrol and wandered into American lines and was captured.

7th Co, 119th Pz Gr Regt, 25th Pz Gr Div, participated in attack on HATTEN from the forest area east of that town. Pz states that the entire 2nd Bn, 119th Pz Gr Regt plus the 1st Bn, 35th Pz Gr Regt took part in the attack on HATTEN this morning and suffered very heavy casualties. Attackers were under the impression that the pillboxes of the MAGNOC NE east of HATTEN

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By: *SB* NAVA Date: *10/1/01*

along the road were unoccupied, and, according to Pk, were mowed down as soon as they got out into open terrain. Pk states that the company was reorganized on or about 25 Dec, bringing the company strength up to 80 men, divided into 3 platoons. Pk states that the 3rd Platoon is a heavy platoon having 4 H&G and 4-80mm mortars. Pk states that the 8th Co is a heavy company with 2 platoons, the 1st platoon being a H&G platoon having 6-20mm guns used for ground targets, the 2nd platoon having 4-120mm mortars.

Hq Co, 125th Pz Gr Regt sent one Squad of 8 men with the 3rd Co, 35th Pz Gr Regt to reinforce attack on HATTEN from the east. Entire squad was completely destroyed. One Pk captured at 190337.

1st Co, 192nd Pz Gr Regt, 21st Pz Div was reorganized 20 Dec in vic of Pfla-MESSEN. The entire 1st Bn arrived in INGOLSHHEIM 2 days ago. 1st Co occupied town of INGOLSHHEIM and remainder of Bn went into positions east and west of the town. Pk estimates that the Bn strength is approx 300 men. Pk captured was part of a 4 man patrol who left INGOLSHHEIM last night to reconnoiter area in and around BRUNNENBACH. Non-com in charge of patrol sent one man out and stayed behind and gave order to the one man sent out ahead to do the task assigned the whole patrol. Man sent out ahead deserted. 1st Co has a strength of approximately 55 men and 4 L&Gs.

3d Co, 35th Pz Gr Regt came with the entire 1st Bn from vic HATTEN and arrived in GEMMOTEN on 7 Jan and then moved to BRUNNENBACH. Pk states that the 3rd Bn was dissolved and incorporated into the 1st Bn, and that the 3rd Bn is now being reorganized in GEMMOTEN. 1st Bn, 35th Pz Gr Regt was on northern flank of attacking force on HATTEN and suffered heavy losses according to Pk statements. Pk estimates that the company had a strength of 81 men before the attack and only 15 men withdrew to the forest after the attack was over. 3rd Co started the attack with 75 men and had 12-20 men left when they withdrew to the east of HATTEN. Pk states that the 6th, and 7th Cos, 119th Pz Gr Regt were on the south flank of the attack. Pk states that out of the entire Bn attack only approx 85-100 men were able to withdraw under their own power.

6th Co, 124th Inf was a participant in the attack against the 213th Inf yesterday. Pk states that the entire Bn attacked with the result that the 7th Co was completely destroyed and the 6th Co pulled back with only 4 men. Pk was pinned down by MG fire for ten hours, lying amongst 20 German dead. Attack was to be supported by 5 tanks but failed because infantry was unable to take original initial objective. One Company, the 2nd Co, 220th Arnd Bngr Bn, 21st Pz Div, was to be employed to sweep a 15 yard lane for the 5 tanks to break through our minefields. But entire attack fizzled because of heavy arty and small arms fire. Pk of the Bngr Bn states that the Bn brought approx 200 T mines with them from E-MUND to be used if the Division was forced into a defensive position. 5 tanks that were to support attack withdrew to BRUNNENBACH.

The 9th and 11th Cos of the 2nd SS Police Regt were virtually destroyed in their attack on the south part of BRUNNENBACH. Objective of the attack was to take the paper factory in BRUNNENBACH. The 2nd SS Police Regt was organized approx 2 months ago in vic of BRUNNENBACH from air raid wardens, civil service employees and air raid fire aid men. Pk states that it was called an SS Police unit because the personnel all stood a little more in favor of the Government than the general populace. Personnel are all over 40 years of age. Training, according to Pk, consisted of close order drill, with a little weapons training thrown into the bag in the last two weeks. The Bn has an original strength of approx 350 men and crossed the Rhine River night of 5-6 Jan at 172147 on a ferry with a capacity of 40 men and a horse drawn cart. The 11th Co took up positions along river line from 15951565 to 16031700. The 9th Co was on their right flank following the River to 16501780. Pk claims that another unidentified SS Police unit was on the right flank of the 11th Co. Each Co was equipped with 3-50mm mortars and the 12th Co was equipped with 4-80mm mortars. Pk states that the Bn Hq and staff of an organization TLOT crossed the River with them.

Pk of the 1st Bn, 1119th Inf, 353rd VG Div states that the 1st Bn was reorganized vic of LINDESDORF about 30 Dec. Pk stated that the remnants of the entire Div were thrown into the 1st Bn, 1119th to bring it up to a strength of 300 men. The Bn crossed the Rhine the night of 7-8 Jan and took up a position in BRUNNENBACH. The Bn stayed there overnight and moved into position a br at BRUNNENBACH at 130168. Pk states that the entire Bn suffered heavy losses in today's American attack, and feel that the Bn was scattered.

4. Morale
Fair

5. Supply
Good. Both food and ammo supplies are entirely adequate both at the G&A-B

REMARKS (Continued)

Spring bridges and on the northern sector. Food being brought across the Rhine every evening at approx 1800 hrs. Food and ammo supply on Northern sector is excellent according to German standards.

6. REINFORCEMENTS

One Bn of tanks with the 25th Pz Gr Div (1st estimate - no strength unknown). 30 Mk IV and 10 Mk VI Tanks with the 21st Pz Div. The 10 Mk VI tanks were received approx 8 days ago. According to all the interrogated during period, the 25th Pz Gr Div is decidedly under-strength despite the fact that it has recently received replacements. It is stated that the Div has two regts with two Bns each. One of 21st Pz Div and of the 25th Pz Gr Div both claim to have the same commanding General. Both claim that their Division is commanded by a Maj Gen BROCHTER. 25th Pz Gr Div may be under control of the 21st Pz Div.

7. New Installations

1st Co, 14th Pz Grenadier: North edge of BIELEFELD.

1st Co, 12th Pz Grenadier: 21st Pz Div in KLEINBAUM.

1st Co, 12th Pz Grenadier: in KLEINBAUM.

1st Bn, 12th Pz Grenadier: in KLEINBAUM.

2nd Bn, 12th Pz Grenadier: in former 79th Div HQ officers mess at main Wk in KLEINBAUM.

REMARKS - INTELLIGENCE FILE

German Tactic Use of Searchlights in Ground Role: The following are observations and recommended countermeasures by units who have had these lights used in their sectors.

Observations

1. The lights appear to be high intensity arc lights and are so strong that troops directly in front of them cannot observe movement of enemy or locate positions of lights.

2. Beams appear to be used to spot objectives and as guides for infantry, tanks and artillery.

3. Beams are stationary and are tilted at angles ranging from the horizontal to 45 degrees. When tilted at angles above the horizontal, the beam reflects from the low clouds or overcast and lights the ground.

4. Lights were used in groups of from 3 to 12.

5. Lights stayed on from 15 minutes to one hour. In one case reported, they were used on and off during the entire night. In most instances they were used only for a short time prior to daylight.

Recommended Countermeasures

1. Use of sound and flash artillery teams to locate lights.

2. Use artillery and night fighters to destroy lights.

3. Fire from tanks, as enemy troops and vehicles are silhouetted in beams.

4. Use of liaison planes to locate lights.

5. Tank battalions take intersection and artillery can fire on lights.

When first used our troops were confused, but advantage was taken of their subsequent use and heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy troops silhouetted in the lights. (See: 20th British Corps) (VII Corps).

230 MSG-CAST AS OF 092400

WESTERN FRONT: The Americans are forcing the Germans to withdraw in several parts of their salient in the ARDENNES. The neck of the salient is now only ten miles wide. During the day the Germans lost 31 tanks, in the heavy fighting, which is taking place in snow that is 4 feet deep in many places. In Northern France the Germans repulsed a strong German attack, at a cost to the Germans of 11 tanks and many vehicles. The bridgehead the Germans are holding north of Strasbourg is being slowly reduced under heavy American pressure. South of Strasbourg, the French halted a German drive, just 16 miles south of that city.

EASTERN FRONT: The Russians have beaten off several strong German attempts to relieve the beleaguered Nazi garrison in BUDAPEST.

PACIFIC THEATER: General MacArthur's troops have made a very strong landing on MUKO ISLAND on the same beaches that the Japs used in their initial landings - MUKO ISLAND on the west coast of the island slightly over 100 miles from MUKO. In their efforts to stop the landing, the Japs lost 70 planes and 2 destroyers in addition to other small naval craft.

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Authority: ND 736017
By: SB NAVA: Date:

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✓ 2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 092200 Jan 45
TO: 102200 Jan 45
by 9th Inf Div
in the field
102400 January 1945

No. 184

Maps: No change

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

- a. Enemy Front Lines: On Northern front: GERSBACH (1144), HOFENHEIM (1441), SCHUCH (1837), STUNDELLER (1836), BHL (2035), 195320 and 222305. In the Bridgehead area: FT LOUIS (2322), southern half of HOFENHEIM (2517), southern part of HOFENHEIM (1214), OFFENDORF (1312) and GERSBACH (1110).
- b. Units in Contact: 21st Pz Div, 25th Pz Gr Div; battle groups under command of 553rd VG Div.

2. ENEMY ACTIONS DURING PERIOD

a. General Summary:

(1) Northern Front (TF WAIL): All units received some arty fire during the night and the enemy continued to resist in HATTEN. 222nd Inf patrols reported enemy activity in CHENBOURG and vic 160403. Another patrol from the same regiment killed four and captured one German of a five man outpost. During the day, our forces made progress by street fighting in HATTEN in spite of stiff resistance from infantry and tanks. One enemy tank was reported knocked out by bazooka and another destroyed by the 48th Tk Bn. Enemy arty fire was constant during the day and mortar fire from a battery near FRIEDRICH (2037) was reported in the 242nd Inf sector. Tanks and infantry were reported heard vic 207307 at 0730 hrs. During the morning a few vehicles and some infantry were seen approaching HATTEN from the woods to the East. At 1020 hrs approx 25 infantry were dug in at 187325 and at 1115 hrs another group was observed at 180345. Some enemy attempted to infiltrate to the positions of the 3rd Bn, 313th Inf, around noon, but were stopped by mortar fire. During the afternoon enemy mortar fire was received vic 108437 and an enemy CP was destroyed by a direct arty hit at 112443. Enemy air was active during the afternoon with 12 262's predominating and bombing and strafing was reported in the SURFORD-SULZ-RIETTERSHOFFEN-NIDERRHEIN area. Enemy infantry was reported as withdrawing from HATTEN to the woods east of there at 1720 hrs, however, at least 5 enemy tanks were observed in vic of 189338 around 1725 hrs. Fighting in HATTEN had ceased by dusk, however, one tank was reported in front of the church, in the town, and one was reported at 174339 towards the end of the period. The enemy was still holding the extreme NE tip of HATTEN.

(2) Bridgehead Area: The 56th Armd Inf Bn met bitter opposition in HOFENHEIM during the night and was reported surrounded at 0130 hrs. Our tank support arrived early this morning and the attack was resumed on the town. Enemy reinforcements arrived from OFFENDORF and the fighting continued all day with our troops making progress in street fighting against heavy small arms, mortar and arty fire. CC B, 12th Armd Div reported two enemy tanks destroyed in their sector today. The 3rd Bn, 314th Inf repulsed an enemy attack at 0130 hrs made by infantry and CP guns. Two 88mm guns were located at 133157 and one destroyed by arty fire. Enemy infantry, vic 147155, were taken under arty fire at 1145 hrs. Enemy tanks continued to operate in the bridgehead area and an air CP reported 5 in vic 124135 and 7 at 131152 at 1425 hrs. The 79th Non Troop captured a 5 man patrol vic HOFENHEIM in the afternoon and reported the town clear. HOFENHEIM was shelled by arty at 1715 hrs. Towards the end of the period fighting was still taking place in HOFENHEIM, where our troops were receiving heavy small arms, arty and mortar fire.

3. ABGALLANES

- a. Pns evacuated through Fm: 112
- b. Pns evacuated through medical channels: 12
- c. Total Pns to date: 21,747
- d. 4 enemy tanks reported destroyed during period. Total enemy tanks destroyed to date: 115.
- e. Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, H. Enclosure, Inf Regts, H. GUEXAU and civilian road patrols.

- 1 -

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(Un-)

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Authority: *WFO 236017*
By: *36* NAVA Date: *10/1/07*

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f. 45th Div Sector: Enemy continues determined opposition to our advance in western part of sector. Strong resistance at St. outskirts of ALTHORN (47540), 752396, 780393 and along high ground from 810387 to 830382. mortar and arty fire heavy against our troops via ALTHORN. Elements of 11th Pz Div identified in the sector at 7939.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

- To conduct probing patrols on left flank of northern front.
- To attack with 2 bns of Inf and 15 tanks in the STUMMILLER or HATTEN area.
- To attack with 2 bns of Inf and 15 tanks in the HINTSCHALL area.
- To defend present bridgehead area.

Dohmann
LUTHERAN DEB
G-2

DISTRIBUTION:

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CONSOLIDATED IPR ANNEX TO G-2 PERIODIC REPORT NO. 184

1. Unit Identifications

Unit	Pws	Place	Captured	Date
2d Co, 5th Tk Bn, 25 PG Div	2	HATTEN	2-56th Arad Inf	9 Jan
3d Co, 5th Tk Bn, 25 PG Div	1	"	"	"
35 PG Regt, 25 PG Div - 1st Co	17	vic "	"	"
2nd Co	4	"	"	"
3rd Co	15	"	"	"
7th Co, 119 PG Regt, 25 PG Div	1	"	"	"
192 F G Regt - 6th Co	2	"	"	"
7th Co	3	"	"	"
1119 VG Regt, 553 Div - 1st Co	16	HEERLISHEIT	2-56th Arad Inf	"
2nd Co	14	"	14-714 Tk Bn	"
4th Co	14	"	12-56th Arad Inf	"
			2-714 Tk Bn	"
			2-314 Inf	"
			7-714 Tk Bn	"
			5-56th Arad Inf	"
Battle Group LITKE	2	o ROHRMILLER	"	"
105th AT Bn - 1st Co	3	HEERLISHEIT	1-714 Tk Bn	"
2nd Co	7	"	2-56th Arad	"
			2-714 Tk Bn	"
			2-56th Arad Inf	"
			3-314th Inf	"
9th Co, 2nd SS Police Regt	2	"	"	"
Co Starke, in Hoppe	6	240284	79 Acn Tr	10 Jan

2. Deserter Pws in Civilian Clothes, apprehended by the 79th CIC Detachment

Unit	Pws	Last Unit Location at	Date
Army Medical Staff	1	STANDBURG	29 Aug
G.I. Labor command	1	HEILINGEN	18 Oct
9th Co, 73rd Pz Gr Regt, 19th Pz Div	1	Heilbrunn	28 Nov
TOTAL PWS PROCESSED	112		

3. Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition.

All deserter Pws in civilian clothes were Alsatians and were with their units at the places and dates indicated when they either deserted or overstayed their furloughs.

Pw of the 3rd Co, 5th Tank Bn joined the company 2 days ago, with 20 Mk V Panther tanks which arrived from LINDAU. The 20 Panther tanks were divided amongst the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Co's of the Bn, some of them being new and others reconditioned. Several of the tanks were sent to the repair shops in SCHLEIERHAL. The entire Bn consisted of four companies, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Co's were Panther tank Co's and had 9-11 tanks apiece, the 4th Co is an Assault gun Co, having 9-75mm assault guns on a Mk IV chassis. Pw states that of the total Bn strength of approx 40 tanks and assault guns, only 23 were in condition and all participated in yesterday's attack on HATTEN. Of the 23 armored vehicles, 17 were Mk V Panther tanks and 6 were assault guns.

(Cont'd)

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Authority: 236017
by: 36 NAVA Date:

The 1st Bn assembled near Ch in vic of 221319 before the attack. The 2nd Co started the attack with 9 Panthers, all of which were knocked out. Another Co lost approx 3 tanks with 2 badly damaged. PW states that all tanks and assault guns used the bridge in HERRLISHEIM.

The 1st Bn, 35th Pz Gr Regt attacked HATTEN and the pillboxes E of the town, and suffered heavy losses. PW estimates of Bn strength vary from 110 to 225 men. The attack was made in conjunction with the 2nd Bn, 119th Pz Regt. After first attack failed troops withdrew to forest and there they reassembled. A new attack was launched supported by remnants of the 2nd Bn, 192nd Pz Gr, 21st Pz Div, which was held in reserve east of HATTEN in the forest after suffering heavy losses in STUNDELIER, ASCHBACH area. The second attack was made with the remnants of the three Bns and had as an objective the high ground east of HERRLISHEIM. PW state that American counterattack drove them back to the forest and destroyed 17 German tanks and assault guns.

The 192nd Pz Gr Regt participated in the second attack on HATTEN and HERRLISHEIM yesterday. PW state that the 7th Co, 119 Pz Gr Regt was virtually destroyed two days ago in STUNDELIER and the remnants of the Co were incorporated into the 6th Co. 6th Co now has a strength of 65 men including remnants of the 7th Co. One PW states that the 5th Co was completely destroyed in STUNDELIER. PW estimates Bn strength to be 170 men who, according to PW, have been withdrawn to OBERHILDER (217310) where the Bn CP is now located. PW states that wounded could not be evacuated because of heavy fire from American artillery and they volunteered to bring them into the American lines.

The 1st Bn, 1119th VG Regt, 552nd VG Div was reorganized the end of Dec, and also is called Bn Kappes. PW estimated that the original strength was approx 300 men. The entire 1119th Regt remnants, plus some personnel drawn from the 1120th and 1121st Regts were thrown into the 1st Bn, 1119th Regt. The Bn crossed the RHINE the night of 5-6 Jan at 172147 by ferry and rubber assault boats. Bn strength estimated by PW after fighting in HERRLISHEIM was approx 165 men. The 1st Bn was supported by the 1st Co, 309th AT Bn and 1/2 of the 2nd Co, 405th Pz Bn. Position in HERRLISHEIM became precarious at approx 1100 hrs on 9 Jan, and they called for help. Bn Winter was sent to the town as reinforcements.

Bn Winter consists of two companies of approx 80 men each, and was formed from remnants of the 1120th VG Regt in BUSENDACH on 30 Dec. They came across the RHINE the night of 6-7 Jan at 150111 on a ferry holding approx 45 men. Co was billeted in OFFENDORF and was in town with one company of the 2nd SS Police Regt, probably the 10th Co. Bn Winter was called upon by the 1st Bn, 1119th Inf to help hold the town of HERRLISHEIM, at noon 9 Jan. PW states that the Bn was reduced to approx 100 men after a heavy artillery barrage on the town, and were to be relieved by a SS police unit, which never came. Only a few scattered personnel of the SS Police unit ever arrived in HERRLISHEIM. PW state that there is one company of Waffen SS securing the road HERRLISHEIM-DROSSENHEIM. None of PWs have ever seen Waffen SS in bridgehead area, but have heard rumors of one company being in vicinity. Bn Winter was supported by 4 tanks.

The 405th AT Bn consists of 2 companies. The 1st Co has a present strength of 75 men and the second company is half on this side of the Rhine and half on the east side, in the vicinity of FREISTEIT. One platoon of the 2nd Co and three 75mm AT Guns were situated east of HERRLISHEIM. PW states that the platoon withdrew to the east, abandoning their AT guns. The 1st Co has an approximate remaining strength of 70-80 men with three 75mm AT guns which were in position at the north approach to HERRLISHEIM. PWs state that 75mm AT guns were abandoned in HERRLISHEIM and company withdrew in direction of OFFENDORF. One PW states that there were 12-15 tanks in HERRLISHEIM which were to attack north along the HERRLISHEIM-DROSSENHEIM Road, but could never get started because of heavy artillery fire. PW states that every time the tanks went out of the town along the road they were greeted by terrific artillery barrages.

PW of the 9th Co, 2nd SS Police Regt, states that his company is completely destroyed and he was at the present time attached to 1st Bn, 1119th Inf at HERRLISHEIM. PW stated that the Bn suffered heavy casualties in their attack on DROSSENHEIM; that approximately 100 were captured; and that the Bn was to be dissolved and sent to other units in the bridgehead area as replacements.

PWs of Co Starke were out on patrol from BEINHEIM. Entire patrol of 6 men captured by 79th Recon Troop at 240234, vicinity of mill. PWs were poorest troops encountered by 79th Div in many a day. The patrol leader had a club foot and members of his patrol were all fat and forty. PW states that approximately 20 men of his company were in BEINHEIM and were a bit nervous as to our intentions in this area. The platoon leader suspected an American attack. Patrol mission was to find enemy and report on strength and disposition. Entire patrol

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by **36** NAVA Date

captured. PWs state that the remainder of Co Starke (approx 30 men) is in NEUNAUSEL, the remaining 12-14 men in HEINHEIM are armed with one MG and 3 Panzerfaust.

4. Morale
Fair

5. Supply

Supply in bridgehead is good. Food supply consists of iron rations and apparently in adequate quantities. Ammunition supply is very adequate. Supply in northern sector is excellent. Hot meals are served almost every evening, and the food is abundant. One PW stated that they received more food than they could consume. Arms supply is good.

6. Enemy Installations

Infantry foot bridge at 219338
OP, 1st Bn, 35th Pz Gr Regt in GROEBELER (21763703).

7. Personnel

	Units	PW No
LA HOEHLIN	CO, 2nd Co, 405th AT Bn	14892
Capt MANNHEIM	Bn CO	
Lt HUBERT	CO, 1st Co, 1119th Regt	41497 B
Capt KAPFER	Bn CO	
LA SIEPA	CO, 4th Co, 1119th Regt	41497 B
Lt FUEL	CO, 3rd Co, 5th Tank Bn	?
Capt ANGENS	Bn CO	
LA FENNER	CO, 1st Co, 405th AT Bn	None
Lt WILMER	Bn CO	

* * * * *

SECRET

The following TWX has been received from Seventh Army:

Apprehension of two confessed French members of BRANDENEURG sabotage EISENHEIT North, indicates Seventh Army installations now target of this group, particularly gasoline, ammunition dumps and possibly planes. EISENHEIT South is operating in vic of COLMAR and three of their saboteurs have been captured. Additional saboteurs are expected particularly in vicinity RACHENAU in civilian clothing carrying knap-sacks which contain plastic explosives and small arms. Explosives may be disguised in German ration cans. Cover story may be they are French prisoners of War or workers escaping from GERMANY. Other groups may be in German uniform wearing field jacket and hood closely resembling American issue. Reliable informant indicates Germans are using HITLER JUGEND members for short range espionage in Seventh Army. HI includes boys from 10 to 17 years old. All civilians entering our lines will be arrested, searched and turned over to nearest CIC Detachment.

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BBC NEWSCAST AS OF 102400

WESTERN FRONT: On the North flank of the ARDENNES Salient American troops have captured LA ROCHE and have also reached a point 4 miles east of that important road hub. At the West end of the Salient the enemy is reported to be withdrawing his armor leaving scattered infantry units and minefields to impede the advance of the British. On the South flank 2 enemy attacks have been beaten back near RASTOIRE, while the Third Army has made gains near WILTZ. In ALBACE less enemy pressure was reported after yesterday's heavy losses inflicted on the enemy in the area S of WISSEMBOURG. The enemy's bridgeheads N and S of STRASSBOURG were hard hit by the air force today.

EASTERN FRONT: The Russians report their biggest gains yet in BUDAPEST when today they took more than 1000 city blocks and a record breaking 3000 prisoners. German attacks west of the city have been beaten back. N of the DANUBE Red Army units are now a little more than a mile from KOMARNO.

PACIFIC THEATER: The Americans are making good progress on LUZON. They have pushed in and from LINGAYEN GULF for an average of 4 miles.

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By: SB NAVA: DJS

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G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 102200 Jan 45
 TO: 112200 Jan 45
 Reg 9th Inf Div
 In the Field
 112400 January 1945

No. 185

Maps: No change

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

a. Enemy Front Lines: On Northern Front: CLEBOURG (1144), INGOLSHHEIM (1441), ASCHBACH (1837), STUNDWILLER (1836), FUHL (2035), eastern part of HATTEN (1833), eastern part of RITTERSHOFEN (1533) and 222905. In the Bridgehead area: FT LOUIS (2322), southern part of DRUSENHEIM (1517), HERBILSHHEIM (1214), OFFENDORF (1312) and GIESHEIM (1110).

b. Units in Contact: 21st Pz Div; 25th Pz Gr Div; Battle groups under command of 553rd VC Div.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIODa. General Summary:

(1) Northern Front (TF MAHL): Forward elements received sporadic arty fire most of the night and vehicular traffic was heard until 0400 hrs vic HATTEN and INGOLSHHEIM. A strong enemy patrol was contacted vic 185363. A patrol of the 222nd Inf contacted a 3 man infantry patrol S of INGOLSHHEIM and killed all of the Germans and continued to knock out a MG in the same vicinity. The 2nd Bn, 305th Inf received heavy enemy pressure in HATTEN shortly after dawn and tanks in the northern part of the town, aided by a heavy ground haze, covered the advance of enemy infantry to RITTERSHOFEN. Four of these tanks were knocked out by the 27th TD Bn in addition to one scout car and one armored car. The enemy infantry was contained to the northeast tip of RITTERSHOFEN until tank support arrived, after which the Germans made some progress in house to house fighting and held a little more than half of the town by the end of the period. At this time an estimated 23 tanks and 2 bns of infantry were operating in the town. Two enemy tanks were claimed destroyed in this fighting. Enemy arty, mortar and small arms fire was heavy in both towns. During the morning, German infantry was reported digging in from 159342 to 172344. Enemy activity, including some vehicular movement was observed in CLEBOURG and a MG located at 162412. Considerable vehicular movement was heard between RIEDELSTZ and INGOLSHHEIM during the afternoon. The enemy became somewhat aggressive in HATTEN at 2100 hrs and was reported using phosphorous grenades against our positions. Patrols of the 242nd Inf were unable to advance beyond the HATTEN - EISELGAHLEN road because of entrenched enemy. German tks and inf attacked in HATTEN at 2200 hrs.

(2) Bridgehead Area: The 314th Inf received sporadic concentrations of arty in its sector during the day, after a quiet night. The 79th Recon Troop reported ALENHEIM, HURTZENHEIM, STATTMATTEN and ROESCHWOG clear after killing 3 and wounding 3 members of a 3 man German patrol in the last town. A road block of wagons and felled trees was located at 231266. Or an estimated platoon which defended this block, 6 were killed before the Troop withdrew. A patrol of the 232nd Inf reported the town of KAUFFENHEIM (2125) clear during the afternoon. Patrols of CC B, 12th Arm Div located enemy dug in from 091335 to 111416 with one MG every 150 yds and heard vehicles in HERBILSHHEIM, but drew no fire after approaching within 500 yds of the town. RUSCHWILLER received sporadic arty fire after 1900 hrs. A patrol from the 2nd Bn, 232nd Inf reported a road block, defended by 6 enemy, at 091116.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- FWs evacuated through PM: 13
- FWs evacuated through medical channels: 3
- Total FWs to date: 21,763.
- 6 enemy tanks destroyed during the period. Total enemy tanks destroyed to date: 121. In addition one scout car, one armored car, and one 2 1/2 ton truck were destroyed.
- Location of GIC personnel: Div CP, PW Enclosure, Inf Regts, MAGUENAU and civilian road patrols.

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f. 45th Div Sector: Estimated enemy bn attacking high ground vic of Q75530 and an estimated company exerting strong pressure on Hill 145 (Q830351). Strong contact continues in ALTHORN (Q7540) and OBERMUTHAL (Q8439) and in BAER-ENTHAL- PHELLIPSBOND area enemy is alert to all movements. No change in enemy situation on rest of Div front but estimated enemy platoon contacted by our patrols at Q07471, Q16449 and Q21404.

g. Weather Forecast: 12 Jan - Increasing high and intermediate clouds. Cloudy at night. Very light snow flurries near sunset. Visibility 6-8 miles. Min temp: 38. by 1000 to 4000: 31-40.

h. 13 Jan: Partly cloudy throughout day, clearing at night. Visibility 2-3 miles during day, becoming to 1 mile or less at night. Continued cold, min temp: 10-15.

4. ~~ENEMY CAPABILITIES~~

- To conduct patrolling patrols on left flank of northern front.
- To continue to attack with possible reinforcement of 2 bns of inf and 15 tanks in HATTEN area.
- To conduct reconnaissance patrols in the MUNTZENHAIN area.
- To reinforce and defend present bridgehead area.

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CONSOLIDATED IPW ANNEX TO G-2 REPORT NO. 155

1. Unit Identifications

Unit	PWs	Place	Captured	Date
Battle Group Leewen	9	147401	222 Inf	10 Jan
3d Co, 220 Armd Engr Bn, 21 Pz Div	1	Hatten	242 Inf	10 Jan
2d Co, 125 Pz Ren Bn, 25 Pz Gr Div	1	Leutenheim	232 Inf	10 Jan

2. Deserter PWs in Civilian Clothes Apprehended by 7yth CIC Detachment

Unit	PWs	Last Unit Location at	Date
8th Co, 77th Inf, 7 Inf Div	1	Teterchen, vic Saarlautern	26 Nov
3rd Co, 42nd Inf, 7 Inf Div	1	Jassy, Rumania	13 Aug
TOTAL PWs PROCESSED		15	

3. Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition.

PWs in civilian clothes were Alsatian Deserters. Neither PW was certain of what unit he belonged to before deserting. PW of the 77th Inf claimed to be from the 374th Inf Div and stated that his division suffered very heavy casualties in vic of Saarlautern. PW of 42nd Inf Regt claims he was last with unit in the vic of Jassy, Rumania, received furlough to Alsace on 13 Aug and deserted.

PW of the 3rd Co, 220th Armd Engr Bn, captured NE section of HATTEN. PW states that his entire company, consisting of 100 men and 6 LMGs, is in the town. PW states that the Engr Bn has been busy clearing minefields, barbed wire and road blocks and are merely billeted in the town at the present time. PW estimates there are 3 companies of inf in Hatten besides the 3rd Co, 220th Engr Bn. One tank was seen at the church and one tank 100 yds from church along road running east. Both tanks are Mark V Panther tanks and were seen at 1730, 10 Jan.

Battle Group Leewen has a present strength of 42 men. Unit moved from Schweighofen to Schliethal to secure and occupy that town. Battle group sent out two out posts to vic of Hunsbach, one squad was put at mill east of Hunsbach and one at the RR Station. Squad of 8 men at the mill were captured intact by an American patrol. This patrol killed 7 men of the other squad and dug out a very dazed PW from the debris of the RR station, after what the PW described as a terrific charge of dynamite went off. Unit is composed of former GAF men.

2nd Co, 125th Pz Ren Bn has a strength of approx 100 men and about 40-50 Volkswagen. The company consists of 4 platoons of which 3 are light Ren platoons and one is a heavy platoon which has 2 HMGs and one 81mm mortar. At the present time only the 3rd platoon is being used for Ren, the 1st and 2nd platoons are dug in along road at 226325. Patrol of 10 men left KESSELDOHRF to reconnoiter road and towns of Forstfeld, Kauffenheim and Leutenheim, with a mission of determining

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by 36 NAVA Date

type of enemy activity and troops in Leutenheim. Patrol received fire from MG set up vic of church in Leutenheim, 2 men were killed and one wounded, and one man was captured. Results of the patrol were to be reported to the Company Commander in CP dugout at 225328. The 1st Co, 125th Pz Ren is in position from 240332 to 250332. PW states that German officers are slightly suspicious of an attack by us coming along the Rhine River east of the Forest of Haguenau, and then running into the flank of the German forces in the vicinity of Hatten. Heavy platoon of the 2nd Co, 125th Pz Ren, with one 81mm mortar and 2 MGs, is in position west of road at 226332. The entire Bn consists of 2 companies plus a supply platoon and a signal platoon. Battalions mission is apparently to screen flank of German forces attacking Hatten.

2 PWs evacuated through medical channels belonged to TF Kossner. This TF is an Inf Bn commanded by Major Kossner. Only two platoons of this unit were sent across the river with the mission of reconnoitering in vic of Roeschwoog and determining disposition of American troops. The rest of the TF is still manning bunkers on the east side of the Rhine.

1 wounded PW taken vic Hatten belonged to the 21st JGR which is a part of the 107 Pz Brigade. A diary found with him indicates that this Pz Brigade is now a part of the 25th Pz Gren Div.

4. Morale Fair

5. Supply

Supply excellent. PW states that troops in Hatten were supplied with hot food last night at 1900 hrs. Ammo supply is good and comes from vicinity of Wissembourg.

Personalities	Unit	FPN
1st Lt. Leowen	CO, Battle Group Leowen	
1st Lt. Steiner	CO, 3rd Co, 22nd Inf Bn	
Capt Buntz	Bn CO,	
Capt Dickert	CO, 2nd Co, 125th Pz Ren Bn	66504 C

7. Enemy Installations

Motor park of 125th Pz Ren Bn containing 80-100 Volkswagen in area bounded by following coordinates: 22553245-23553255 - 23753315 - 23003310.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE ITEMS

SUNRISE, SUNSET TABLES

JANUARY 1945

- This table is based upon SAVERNE and all times mentioned are "A" time.
- Daylight is approx one hour before sunrise, darkness one hour after sunset.

3. CORRECTION TABLE:

(1) EPINAL	- Plus 3 minutes	(5) MULHOUSE	- Minus 3 minutes
(2) VESOUL	- Plus 3 minutes	(6) KARLSRUHE	- Minus 4 minutes
(3) SAARBRUCKEN	- Plus 3 minutes	(7) STUTTGART	- Minus 7 minutes
(4) HAGUENAU	- Minus 1 minute		

DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOORRISE	MOONSET	PHASE
January 12	0819	1700	0637	1523	New Moon
13	0819	1701	0739	1618	
14	0818	1703	0841	1713	
15	0817	1704	0949	1807	
16	0817	1705	1057	1904	First Quarter
17	0816	1707	1208	2003	
18	0815	1709	1316	2102	
19	0814	1710	1422	2200	
20	0813	1712	1526	2259	
21	0812	1713	1628	2356	
22	0811	1715	1729	0052	
23	0810	1716	1828	0147	
24	0809	1718	1925	0240	

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By: SB NAVA, Date:

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE ITEMS

DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET	PHASE
January 25	0808	1717	1430	0555	
26	0807	1720	1529	0655	
27	0806	1722	1629	0744	Full Moon
28	0805	1724	1733	0825	
29	0804	1725	1831	0859	
30	0803	1727	1940	0922	
31	0801	1729	2047	0954	

*** Indicates that moon is too close to sun for observation. (45th Div)

ENEMY LEAFLET DROPPED JAN 10, 1945 IN 222ND INF SECTOR

"You have little hope to return to your far, far away home-country, to your mother, your wife, your children, your bride, your sweetheart and your friends.

If you want to be sure to see the sun rise again above the country where you are born, then stop fighting!

Does this war make any sense to you?

Isn't it dreadfully tragic, that your warmongers let you do the dirty work, and push you - for their profit's sake - in a terrific fight against a country that never assaulted you and a people which never felt any hatred against you, throw you into the horrors and senselessness of death?

However this war may end, if you surrender you will survive and come home safely. You can be sure that Germany acts in strict compliance with the Geneva Convention."

(A very poor sales talk after the MALMEDY massacres)

* * * * *

1. It has been definitely established that The German Air Force are in possession of a limited number of P-47 American airplanes. In a calculated effort to cause confusion and undermine air - ground cooperation in the American Army during current operations, the Luftwaffe has been attacking ground installations on the Third and Seventh Army Front with these airplanes.

2. The German P-47's observed have had the usual Luftwaffe markings with crosses on the wings and Swastikas on the tails. They have been reported to be painted gray and dark brown. American P-47's normally operating in this area are not painted and present a silver appearance.

3. All personnel are enjoined to carefully observe attacking aircraft for positive signs of identification. Repeating hearsay and spreading rumors with respect to the identity of attacking planes is playing the enemy's game.

4. Any airplane which attacks friendly troops or installations by strafing or bombing will be engaged by appropriate ground agencies. (SUSA)

EBC NEWSCAST AS OF 112400

WESTERN FRONT: There are more indications that the enemy is pulling out of the west end of the ARDENNES Salient. On the N flank the Americans are pushing on beyond LAROCHE which fell this morning. To the W the British are 5 miles from the LAROCHE - ST HUBERT road. On the S flank, heavy fighting has taken place around the EUSTACHE salient and there are reports that the ST HUBERT - EUSTACHE road has been crossed by patrols. In ALSACE little change of positions has been reported from N of STRASBOURG. S of STRASBOURG heavy fighting has been taking place near the RHINE-RHODAN CANAL.

EASTERN FRONT: The Russians have made further progress in EUDAPES where the enemy is now getting desperate. The enemy is attempting to breakthrough from the West, but the Russians have stopped the attempts to crack their ring around the city.

PACIFIC THEATER: On the American left flank on LUZON, gains of 7 miles have been made, while 7 mi. we gained on the right flank. On S. KOREA, PHILIPPINES and the BONIN ISLANDS have been bombed.

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By: 30 NAVA Date: _____

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G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 112200 Jan 45
 TO: 122200 Jan 45
 Hq 79th Inf Div
 In the Field
 122400 January 1945

No. 186

Maps: No change

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy Front Lines: On Northern Front: CLEBURG (1144), INGOLSHHEIM (1441), SCHBACH (1837), STUNDWILLER (1836), BUHL (2035), eastern part of RITTERSHOFFEN (1533, eastern part of HATTEN (1533) and 222305. In the bridgehead area: FT LOUIS (2322), southern part of DRUSENHEIM (1517), HERRLISHEIM (1214), LLOL40, 100130 and GAMBESHEIM (1110).

b. Units in Contact: 21st Pz Div; 25th Pz Gr Div; 1st Bn, 937th Inf Regt, 245th VG Div; Battle groups under command of 553rd VG Div.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIODa. General Summary:

(1) Northern Front (TP WAHL): Enemy tanks and infantry attacked in HATTEN at the beginning of the period and in an all night fight forced the 2nd Bn, 315th Inf to the southwestern part of town where the Germans were held from further gains. Enemy arty fire harassed the 3rd Bn, 312th Inf sector, OBERBETSCHDORF and NIEDERBETSCHDORF between 0400 and 0600 hrs. Patrols of the 222nd Inf reported hearing heavy motors and tracked vehicles throughout the night between STEINSELTZ - RIESELITZ - INGOLSHHEIM. The enemy reacted strongly to the attack of the 14th Armd Div with arty, mortar and small arms fire. Determined resistance was met in RITTERSHOFFEN where house to house fighting continued with the Germans employing arty, mortar, tank and heavy small arms fire. An estimated 15 tanks were operating in the town during the day. The cemetery at 161337 proved to be an enemy strongpoint and a Mk VI tank near the church in the town was particularly troublesome, although 6 bazooka hits have been scored on it in the past two days. During the morning one enemy tank was reported at 157344, one at 152325, one moving from HATTEN to RITTERSHOFFEN and two tanks with infantry moving NW vicinity 172344. In the afternoon two tanks were located at 165330, two at 162343, one at 161335, and one at 160340. Three enemy vehicles were reported at 168333 at 1500 hrs. In HATTEN the 827th TD Bn knocked out 1 Mk IV tank and one scout car and a bazooka team of Co, F, 315th Inf knocked out another scout car as the enemy maintained pressure during the day. Enemy arty fire interdicted the RITTERSHOFFEN - KUHLENDORF (1735) and RITTERSHOFFEN - NIEDERBETSCHDORF roads. The 312th FA Bn destroyed one Mk VI tank in the RITTERSHOFFEN area when it scored a direct hit with a white phosphorous shell and another hit with H6. A patrol of the 222nd Inf contacted a MG outpost vicinity 107452, killing one and capturing one enemy.

(2) Bridgehead Area: Patrols of the 242nd Inf reported 2 Volkswagens and one half track in the woods vicinity EICHELGARTEN (2230) at 0430 hrs. A 30 man enemy patrol was driven off vic 118155 around 0315 hrs. Arty fire was light during the night and one mortar concentration fell in 2nd Bn, 314th Inf sector. The 79th Recon Troop found ROESCHWOGG (2125), LEUTENHEIM (2027), STATTMATTEN (1921) and DENGOLSHHEIM (1821) clear during the morning, two pillboxes on the DENGOLSHHEIM - DALHUNDEN (1819) road were found unoccupied, but bridge at 186202 was mined and defended. Two men of a five man enemy patrol were killed by the Troop vic 200241 at 1345 hrs. Four Germans were captured and one killed by 3rd Bn, 314th Inf near the BOIS DE DRUSENHEIM at 1400 hrs. Patrols of CG B, 12th Armd Div, reported enemy still entrenched on the east bank of the canal SW of HERRLISHEIM and reported activity vic 122132 at 1500 hrs. DRUSENHEIM was harassed during the afternoon by arty and direct fire weapons and ROHRWILLER received one concentration of mortar fire.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- PWs evacuated through PM: 9
- PWs evacuated through medical channels: 1
- Total PWs to date: 21,773

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- d. 2 Enemy tanks destroyed during the period. Total enemy tanks destroyed to date: 123. Two scout cars were also knocked out.
- e. Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, PW Enclosure, Inf Regt and HAGUENAU.
- f. 45th Inf Div sector: Our advance contacted 2 Co's of enemy vic 755400 at 1210 hrs and unknown number of enemy resisted vic 763394 with S/A, mortar and arty fire. Very stiff resistance vic 757400 where estimated 100 rounds mixed mortar and arty fire per hour, fell on forward elements, during the afternoon. Attack at 1430 hrs met intense S/A fire vic 740365 and enemy counterattack there at 1600 hrs repulsed. Another counterattack vic 798385 also repulsed. Combat patrol to bridge vic 824371 captured 17 enemy defending road block there.
- g. Weather Forecast: 13 Jan - Scattered to broken low clouds, visibility 1-2 miles during morning, improving to 3-5 miles in afternoon. Min Temp: 9°.
- 14 Jan - No precipitation expected. Visibility 3 - 1 mile improving to 3-4 miles after 1100 hrs, but lowering to 3 - 1 mile after 1800 hrs. Min Temp: 11°.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

- To conduct probing patrols on left flank or northern front.
- To defend from present positions on northern front.
- To attack with possible reinforcements of 2 bns of inf and 15 tanks in HATTEN - RITTERSHOFFEN area.
- To patrol in RUNTZENHEIM area.
- To reinforce and defend present bridgehead.

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CONSOLIDATED IPW ANNEX TO G-2 PERIODIC REPORT NO. 180

1. Unit Identification

Unit	PWs	Place	Captured	Date
7th Co, 125th Pz Regt, 25th PG Div	1	Rittershoffen	315 Inf	10 Jan
8th Co, " " " " " " " " " " " "	1	"	"	"
11th Co, 119 PG Regt, 25th PG Div	1	"	"	"
1st Co, 937th Inf, 245th Inf Div	3	Rolt (125491)	222 Inf	"
1st Bn Hq, 937th Inf, 245 Inf Div	1	"	"	"

2. Deserter PWs in Civilian Clothes Captured By 79th CIC Detachment

Unit	PWs	Last Unit Location at	Date
2104th Tk Bn, 104th Pz Brig	1	Mittau, Poland	9 Dec
7th Co, 466th Inf, 260th Inf Div	1	Central Front, Russia	7 Nov 43
TOTAL PWs PROCESSED	9		

3. Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition

Deserter PW in civilians clothes were both Alsations apprehended vic of Haguenau. Both had received furloughs and deserted. PW of the 2104th Pz Bn, 104th Pz Brig was last with his unit in MITAU, Poland on 9 Dec 44 when he received a furlough to Alsace and deserted. PW of the 7th Co, 466th Inf, 260th Inf Div was last with his unit on 7 Nov 43 on the Central Russian front, was wounded and spent one year in hospital after which he received a furlough to Alsace and deserted.

2nd Bn, 125th Pz Gr Regt attacked Rittershoffen yesterday with the 6th and 7th Cos in advance, the 8th Co in general support and the 5th in reserve. PWs state that the attack was made from south of the town and was supported by 10 tks and assault guns of which eventually one-half were knocked out. PW states that heavy losses were sustained. The 7th Co was on the left flank of the attacking force. The 7th Co started with a strength of approx 80 men. The 8th Co has a strength of 95 men. PW estimated strength of Bn before attack to be approx 350 men. The attack was made in conjunction with at least one other Bn of Inf, which was probably the 1st Bn, 119th Pz Gr Regt.

11th Co, 119th Pz Gr Regt consists of 30 men and 3 half tracks, each mounting a set of 3 30 cal captured American MGs. PW states MGs were probably salvaged from downed American planes. The three half tracks supported units of the 119th Pz Gr Regt. PW states that these weapons were primarily for AA purposes and usually protected the 119th Regt CP against low-flying enemy planes, but were used in support of attacking ground forces, yesterday, in the assault on Rittershoffen. PW believes the 1st Bn was in the attack Rittershoffen, and this

(Cont'd)

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Authority: *DDO 735607*
By: *36* NNA: Date: *...*

is probable. The 2nd Bn, 119th Pz Gr was previously committed in the first attack on Hatten and according to PWs was badly mauled. PW states that the Regt'l CO, Major Huss, personally led the attack from one of the half tracks, and he believes that he was badly wounded. He also believes that the entire 119th Regt participated in the attack yesterday, in conjunction with the 2nd Bn, 125th PG Regt. PW states that 2 of the 3 half tracks participating in the attack were disabled by our fire.

PWs of the 1st Co, 937th Inf were part of a five man patrol sent out from GLEEBOURG. 3 men of the patrol were captured and 2 wounded. Mission of the patrol was to determine whether or not CLIMBACH (0846) was held by the enemy and to establish contact with friendly troops in the area if there were any. PW states that the 1st and 2nd Co's arrived vic of GLEEBOURG 3 days ago and that it is likely that the 3rd and 4th Co's are here since the Bn CP is in OBERHOFEN. PW states that the 1st and 2nd Cos are on line south of GLEEBOURG and had previously been in position in SIEGFRIED LINE between WISSENBURG and BERG ZABERN. PW believes that the 1st Co is in position just south of GLEEBOURG with the 3rd Co on the left flank and the 2nd Co on the right flank. PW states that the 1st Co has an approx strength of 80-90 men and that the Bn strength is approx 350 men.

PW of the 1st Bn Hq, 937th Inf went out with the Bn CO, 1st Lt Graulich, and the Bn S-4, Lt Arndt to look at Forestry House as a possible site for their Bn CP. PW states that they were surprised by an American patrol and the Bn CO was shot and killed trying to escape capture, later when the patrol was marching the 2 PWs in, PW states that the S-4 tried to escape also, and he too, was shot and killed. The 1st Bn Hq consists of approx 30 men who are divided into a Message Center and a Communications Section. PW estimates Bn strength at 300-400 men. All of the PWs of 937th Inf were carefully interrogated and none noticed any build-up for attack or had heard any rumors of an attack to be launched in their particular sector. PWs state that the Regt is also known as Regt Nass, after the CO, Lt Col Nass, who at the present time is on leave.

4. Morale

Good. Good food and limited tactical success is, according to PWs, a deciding factor in the general uplift of the morale of the German troops.

5. Supply

Ammo supply good. Riflemen carried on an average 60 rounds apiece, and even the 50 cal MGs were supplied with approx 1000 rds of ammo per 3 guns. Food supply is good. PWs state that food for the 937th Regt is prepared in Fleisweiler (19685737) and transported to Bn CP at Oberhofen via Berg Zabern and Wissembourg.

6. Enemy Installations

CP 245th Inf Div in Berg Zabern (?)

Trains and kitchen of 1st Bn, 937th Regt in Fleisweiler at 19685737.

CP 1st Co, 937th Inf at 11584461.

CP 1st Bn, 937th Inf at 13354042.

CP 937th Inf Regt in Finanzamt Bldg, Wissembourg at 15684853.

7. Personalities

	Unit	FIN
Lt TIEMA (THIEMA)	CO, 1st Co, 937th Inf	15157C
Lt GRAULICH (Killed)	CO, 1st Bn, " "	15157A
Lt ARNDT (Killed)	Bn S-4	
Lt Col NASS	CO, 937th Regt	
Brig Gen SANDER	CG, 245th Div	

* * * * *

SIGNIFICANT ORDER OF BATTLE FACTS IN THE WEST. - - WEEK 1 - 8 JANUARY 1945

1. WESTERN FRONT

a. General

By the end of the week a marked change of overall enemy attitude (defensive) in his salient emphasized the following significant Order of Battle facts.

(1) No new divisions were committed in the penetration area and only one new division appeared on the entire Western front (in Seventh US Army Zone)

(2) The continued absence from the battle line of 10 SS and 11 Pz Divs, possibly the enemy's only mobile reserve in the area West of the RHINE.

(3) An increasingly overall defensive attitude in the salient, supported by local offensive action that presages a probable withdrawal of major Panzer units.

(C-V-E-E)

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By: SB NARA Date:

b. Lack of Reinforcements

During the week the enemy committed only one new division in the West (6 SS Mtn Div "NORD" From SCANDINAVIA). Equally significant, this new division was not committed in the penetration areas, where the enemy's slashing advances have been hammered to a dead stop. Instead, the new division was employed in the attempted diversionary attack against Seventh US Army. Following a reshuffling and regrouping of his forces last week, the enemy this week initiated once more his well-worn shuttle system. This lack of reinforcements and the reappearance of the shuttle system clearly indicate two important factors: First, that the enemy lacks ready effective reserves or does not have the equipment and supplies to maintain them. Second, that the enemy may feel his offensive achieved its objective, i.e. to unhinge our winter offensive, and from now on he will defend and delay within his salient at as great a cost to us as possible with maximum forces while he spurs for time to again refurbish a new striking force for another "gamble" offensive.

c. Small Mobile Reserve

The enemy was able to continue to hoard his two uncommitted Panzer divisions (10 SS, 11 Pz) in tactical reserve by the device of shuttling Panzers from the First to the Third US Army front. The evident reluctance to commit 10 SS and 11 Pz Divs is significant as indicating that they constitute the enemy's only mobile reserve in the WEST. Apparently the two divisions are being very carefully conserved to meet a possible Allied offensive. Definitely, the failure to employ these two strong fresh divisions to give a new power-punch to his forces in the salient, indicates strongly that he has washed it out for further offensive efforts. He may attempt a power drive in another sector, but the ARDENNES area is fini, for the present.

d. Overall Defensive Attitude

All indications point to the development of an overall defensive attitude on the part of the enemy throughout the salient. As part of these defend and delay efforts numerous local diversionary attacks can be expected. The purpose of these jabs is two-fold; to immobilize as much of our forces as possible and to screen the withdrawal of his armor. It is strongly indicated that the enemy has begun to back his Panzers out of the dead-end salient. The closest attention to identifications of these units is essential. If contact with any of them has been lost for two days it can be safely assumed that the unit has been pulled out. Whether the withdrawing armor is again to undergo another two months rebuilding process, for a new offensive in the Spring, or will be hurriedly patched up and coked up to spearhead another penetration effort in some other sector is not yet clear. But it is increasingly evident that the Panzers in the salient are being whisked out, behind a screen of local diversionary attacks and the extremely inclement weather that makes unobserved movement a cinch.

2. SUMMARY

On the basis of the above enumerated facts, it is indicated that:

- a. The enemy has abandoned further offensive operations in his salient and is covertly withdrawing his armor, either for commitment in another sector immediately or for rest and refit for employment in a new offensive later.
- b. The enemy currently has only two Panzer divisions as a mobile reserve in the WEST.
- c. The enemy is continuing to play for time-- this time to prevent an Allied offensive before Spring, when he plans to spring another "gamble". (TUSA)

SEE NEWS AS OF 122400 JAN

WESTERN FRONT: No important engagements have been reported today from the ARDENNES salient where the Germans are continuing their withdrawal from the W end. American troops pressing on from LAROCHE were last placed 3 miles from the enemy's remaining highway. British troops advancing in the ST. HUBERT sector have contacted American troops SE of BASTOGNE. In ALSACE American units have counterattacked S of BITCHE and N of the HAGUENAU forest. In the latter sector 6 enemy tanks were destroyed in yesterday's fighting. N of STRASBOURG no change was reported, but S of the city Allied units were reported surrounded at one place.

EASTERN FRONT: The Russians continue their progress in BUDAPEST and have captured much enemy equipment. At the same time they are continuing to hold back enemy attacks to the W of the city.

PACIFIC THEATER: On LUZON American troops are 12 miles inland now and our advance is said to be "unchecked". Carrier based planes have intercepted off the coast of INDO-CHINA 4 convoys and have sunk 25 ships.

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Authority DDO 73607
By 36 NMA Date

38
15 Jan 45

FROM: 132200 Jan 45
TO: 132200 Jan 45
Hq 9th Inf Div
In the Field
132400 January 1945

No. 187

MAPS: No Change.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy Front Lines: On Northern Front: GLEIBOURG (1144), INGOLSHHEIM (1442), ASCHBACH (1837), STUNDWILLER (1836), BUEL (2035), eastern part of RITTERSHOFFEN (1533), eastern part of HATTEN (1833) and 222305. In the bridgehead area: FT. LOUIS (2322), southern part of DRUSHEIM (1517), HEITLISHEIM (1214), LIOLO, 100130 and GAMBESHEIM (1110).

b. Units in Contact: 21st Pz Div; 25th Pz Gren Div; 1st Bn, 937th Regt, 245th IG Div; Battle groups under command of 353rd VG Div.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD.

a. General Summary:

(1) Northern Front (EF WAIL): At beginning of period 5 enemy tanks were reported approaching HATTEN from the E. and were taken under arty fire. The road from 187326 to 221305 was reported heavily patrolled by the enemy and continuous traffic was heard on the BUEL - HATTEN road until 0200 hrs. Patrols of the 3rd Bn, 314th Inf, reported the bridge at 180349 being repaired and protected by one tank and estimated 35 infantry. This bridge was taken under arty fire during the morning and arty scored two direct hits on it around noon. 30 rounds of estimated 105mm arty fire believed coming from INGOLSHHEIM landed in 222nd Inf sector within 10 minutes at 2040 hrs. The 14th Armd Div attacked this morning and some progress was made in RITTERSHOFFEN and our tanks reached the 2nd Bn, 315th Inf which had been cut off for two days but was still holding part of HATTEN. Arty, mortar, small arms and tank fire was intense in both towns and enemy strongpoints are based in the town church areas. Two tanks were reported destroyed and two captured in RITTERSHOFFEN by the 14th Armd Div. A pillbox vic 187337 was observed to have considerable activity and is probably a headquarters. Shortly after dark 20 vehicles were reported moving into HATTEN from the E. and heavy traffic was heard between ASCHBACH and STUNDWILLER. Enemy air was again active with 3 FW 190's reported at 1220 hrs, 4 ME 262's over at 1220 hrs, 2 ME 262's seen at 1305 hrs and 2 ME 262's at 1605. The ME 262's bombed and strafed vic 120232, SCHWABWILLER and OBERBETSCHDORF. At 2145 enemy troops in RITTERSHOFFEN were reported launching a local counterattack.

(2) Bridgehead Area: Arty fire was sporadic during the night but an outpost of the 2nd Bn, 314th Inf was temporarily withdrawn due to pressure of an enemy combat patrol which attacked with grenades and MGs. Inf and vehicular movement was reported vic 149172. The enemy manning positions on E. bank of canal SW. of HEITLISHEIM were taken under arty fire during the day and our troops in the area received some long range small arms fire. An arty air OP reported a boat in the RHINE RIVER, moving W. at 154118 at 1100 hrs. Some arty and mortar fire was received at 209244 at 1440 hrs. DRINGOLSHHEIM (1821) and ROESCHENKOG (2225) were reported clear during the afternoon by patrols. A 7 man enemy patrol was observed moving N. from KAUFFENHEIM (2125) at 1420 hrs. Enemy patrols were observed in front of the 314th Inf sector but they did not cross the MODER RIVER. Arty fire increased somewhat in this sector during the day.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

- PWs evacuated through PW 11
- PWs evacuated through medical channels: 3
- Total PWs to date: 21,787
- No tanks or vehicles reported destroyed by the Div during the period.
- Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, Pw enclosure, Inf regt's, HAGUENAU.
- 45th Div Sector: SS troops are offering tenacious opposition in vic LE FURLENKOPF (07838). There is heavy enemy artillery fire in this area.

(O-V-E-K)

G-2-C-R-E-T

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Authority: *736017*
By: *30* NARA Date: *10/1/01*

g. Weather Forecast: Jan 14 - Light precipitation in morning with clouds becoming broken in afternoon. Visibility improving to 3-4 miles after 1200 hrs. Min temp: 26 degrees.

Jan 15 - Partly cloudy; visibility improving to 3-5 miles after 1200 hrs. Min temp: 23 degrees.

4. ARMY CAPABILITIES:

- To conduct probing patrols on left flank of northern front.
- To attack on northern front with up to division strength.
- To defend from present positions on northern front.
- To patrol in ROSSCHUCCO - ROFFENHEIM - KAUFENHEIM area.
- To reinforce and defend present bridgehead.
- To withdraw units presently in KITTENHOFEN to the N.

Stohmann
DACHAU
G-2

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CONSOLIDATED IAW ANNEX TO G-2 REPORT NO. 121

1. Unit Identifications:

Unit	PW	Captured by	Location	Date
2nd Co, 8th Regt	3	304 Inf	S. DACHAUHEIM	12 Jan
2nd Co, 125th Pz Ren Bn, 25th Pz Div	1	242 Inf	201292	12 Jan
1st Co, 109th Inf Repl Ing Bn	1	236 Inf	vic SESSENHEIM	13 Jan

2. Deserter PWs in Civilian Clothes Apprehended by 77th CIC Det:

Unit	PW	Last Location	Date
7th Co, 7 PG Regt, 3rd Pz Div	1	WARTY, POLAND	3 Nov 44
labor Staff, Techn'l Mineral Oil Brig	1	GALLMANNHEIM	18 Sep 44
12th Co, 2nd Police Weapons School	1	HEIMROTH, vic DACHAU	22 Nov 44
4th Co, 2nd Ren Squadron, 7 Div	1	CHERBON, POLAND	2 Sep 44
4th Co, 35 Inf Guard Bn	1	Jachita, vic DACHAU	3 Sep 44
1st Pursuit Squadron West, 2nd Staffel	1	STALINGRAD, RUSSIA	11 Sep 44
Total PWs processed	11		

3. Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition:

Bn Meyer is composed of 3 co's with an approx bn strength of 250 men. Bn was formerly an NCO School in vic KITTENHOFEN and in mid-July was moved to various towns behind the lines in FRANCE to act as a security unit. The unit was later put in the SIEGFRIED LINE and on night of 7/8 Jan it crossed the RHINE to reinforce the bridgehead. PW was part of a 4-man enemy patrol sent out to determine our positions and strength in vic 247175 and S. DACHAUHEIM. 3 of patrol were captured and one killed. The unit is in position from 253156 to 259166 with one co of Waffen SS in support. PW could not identify this SS unit.

PW of 2nd Co, 125th Pz Ren Bn, 25th Pz Div was member of a 3-man patrol whose mission was to determine whether or not KOENIGSBRUCH (2029) was clear of the enemy. 2nd Co has lost one plat on ren missions and co now has only 2 plat's, each with approx 30 men. One of these plat's is securing the GR at 221305 with 3 MGs, and the other plat is in KESSELXOF (2430). 2 squads are outposted at 209302; these squads are from the 1st Co of the bn. PW has seen no concentration or buildup of either armor or inf.

PW of 1st Co, 109th Inf Repl Ing Bn "believes" that this is still his unit. It was last unit entered in Soldbuch. The unit is in position in pillboxes of SIEGFRIED LINE in vic STALINGRAD (2318). PW crossed RHINE night of 12/13 Jan on 8-man patrol whose mission was to determine strength and position of enemy forces vic SESSENHEIM. PW fell out of patrol because of foot trouble and surrendered.

PW of 7th Co, 7 PG Regt, 3rd Pz Div was last with his unit at the NACH bridgehead in POLAND on 3 Nov. He received a furlough and then deserted. PW of labor Staff, Technical Mineral Oil Brigade was last with his unit in vic GALLMANNHEIM on 18 Sept. He deserted to his home in ALGER. PW of 12th Co, 2nd Police Weapons School was last with his unit at HEIMROTH on 22 Nov, received a furlough and deser-

(CONT'D)

PW of 4th Co, 2nd Ren Sq, 7 Div was last with his unit at ONLSEN on 2 Sept, received a furlough and deserted. PW of 4th Co, SS Inf Guard Bn was last with his unit on 3 Sept in vic JAILIT, near BERLIN. PW of 1st Pursuit Sq West, 2nd Staff, was last stationed at an airport basing 12 FW-190 pursuit planes at STALIN GRAD in POMERANIA on 11 Sept. He received a furlough and deserted.

4. Morale: Good.

5. Supply: Good. Ammo and food supplies regular and adequate according to all PWs interrogated.

S-E-C-R-E-T

IF YOU LIVE, WHAT YOU MUST EXPECT AT THE HANDS OF OUR ENEMY IN THIS 'GENTLE' MEN'S WAR!

(The following are the experiences of Pfc EDWARD SNYDER, 35607477, Co "H", 517 Pch Regt who was captured on 27 Dec by seven Germans dressed in complete G. I. uniforms.)

On 27 Dec, one day after Companies "G" and "H" of 517 Parachute Regiment had taken MANNH, Pfc Snyder returning from an aid station in VAUX CHALAIX was approached by what he believed to be an American patrol coming from the SB. Nothing in their dress or weapons would have aroused the slightest suspicion. When they came abreast of him the one with sergeant's stripes asked, "Where are you going?" Snyder told him he was going into MANNH. Meanwhile, two others got behind him and stuck a rifle in his back and relieved him of his weapon. At least four of the seven spoke flawless English.

Snyder was taken to MANNH where he was questioned by an SS officer. He was asked his name, rank, serial number and regiment. He refused to give his regiment, whereupon the officer told him what it was. By various questions such as "Do you get along all right with the armored troops?", the interrogator tried to learn what units were on the right and the left of 517 Parachute Regiment. He was very persistent in this effort and spent some time asking questions of a similar nature along the same vein.

After the interrogation was over Snyder was herded together with other American PWs from the 7th Armored Division. The Germans took whatever parts of clothing the PWs had that they wanted. An overcoat, two sweaters and one pair of the socks he was wearing were taken from Snyder. Others lost boots and various other items; all identification tags were taken. Each PW was given a blanket and compelled to sleep outside, under guard, alongside the buildings where American artillery was falling. With the exception of the guard, all Germans were in the cellars.

During the day, Snyder was compelled to clean the mess kits of the Germans as they finished eating; he had to clean up the rooms of the officers as well as the quarters of enlisted men. Whenever a German was killed or wounded by American fire, PWs would be kicked, slapped and spit on. This treatment was meted out by both SS troops and Volksgrenadier personnel.

When Snyder was first brought into MANNH on 27 December it was occupied by SS troops. He does remember the number 12. (This was probably 12th SS Division which was in the line vicinity of MANNH on 27 December.) On the night of 29-30 the SS troops were replaced by a Volksgrenadier unit. All PWs were turned over to this unit and the same treatment was received.

In the afternoon of 3 January, just before our tanks entered the town of MANNH, Snyder and other PWs managed to escape.

It is significant first of all that these PWs were permitted to live. Secondly, international rules of warfare are not only violated by SS troops but by the venerable Volksgrenadier Divisions. Thirdly, SS troops and the Volksgrenadier Divisions have American uniforms, equipment and rations. Snyder claims many patrols were sent out in American uniforms both by the SS and Volksgrenadier units. One patrol was gone four days operating behind our lines.

(D-W-S-R)

S-E-C-R-E-T

There must be no mistaking our enemy. He is a cold blooded ruthless killer who stoops to any level to gain an advantage. The myth of a war being fought in a gentlemanly fashion has definitely been exploded in this conflict. Expect no treatment and any trick from the German and become more alert and suspicious when he shows signs of being humane, (VII Corps)

DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE

Interrogation of prisoners from the 1st SS Reconnaissance Battalion produced the following report:

The Story as Told by German Pts. On 18 December, the engineer Platoon of Hq Company, 1st SS Panzer Reconnaissance Battalion, while on reconnaissance in the STAVELOT area prior to attack, were ordered by their platoon leader, (Untersturmfuehrer BROEGE) to do away with all civilians who came in sight. BROEGE is in our hands, either seriously wounded or dead. An identical order was given by the platoon leader of the bicycle platoon, Untersturmfuehrer KOLOTSCHNIK. Further, one PW heard the company commander Obersturmfuehrer (OLIZ) deliver the same instructions from a motor vehicle. The men carried out their orders well, even exceeding them in their zeal to do their German duty. In the village of PANDONDUY (K-705005), twenty civilians of all ages and sexes were slaughtered. Some were shot on the streets. Others were assembled in a barn and butchered there. After the blood bath, a match was put to the barn and the contents consumed. It is believed that PW hoped in this way to hide what they had done.

Samples of the confessions obtained follow:

"The civilians were picked up on the streets and brought into a barn. Then they were shot."

"I, myself, SS Pvt. ROSENBE, shot two civilians. They were a man and a woman, about 40 years old."

"These twenty civilians were then shot and the barn was set on fire. All members of the platoon participated in the action."

"When both Belgians noticed that they were to be shot, they tried to escape. Therefore, I, and several of my friends, shot and killed the fleeing Belgians."

"We had the mission to reconnoiter STAVELOT. Before we could march into the village, we had to advance to the left of it to find out how strong and where the American artillery was. We had to pass through a village. Before we got into it Lt. BROEGE gave the order to shoot everybody there. I was at the end of the platoon. I knew many civilians were herded into the barn and then shot. As I followed the platoon to the scene of the incident, I received the order from the Lt. to burn the barn down with the help of a Pfc, a parachutist."

(see: 30th Inf Div) (1st Inf Div)

L-1-C-R-4-T

30C MMS 25 OF 13200 JAN

WESTERN FRONT: The First Army is making good progress following its attack this morning at dawn. The attack was made between STAVELOT and LILAN X, at the shoulder of the BUDENNES salient. The enemy is expected to put up a very stiff opposition in this sector. British troops and the Third Army attempting to close the gap are now 4 miles apart between L.ROCHE and ST. HUBERT. Elsewhere on this part of the Third Army front gains of 2 1/2 miles have been made on a 7 mile front.

In A.S.A.C.E the hardest fighting took place north of the HICOUHAI forest, where enemy counterattacks took place near HATTACHHATTON where they are centering their resistance around a tank wedged in the church.

EASTERN FRONT: STALIN has announced the opening of what the enemy says is the Russian winter offensive. Yesterday morning the Russians attacked on the VISTULA bridgehead following a great artillery preparation. The weather ruled out air support. The long-prepared and elaborate enemy defenses were smashed and a breakthrough achieved for gains of 20 miles on a 40 mile front. The Russians are put 45 miles E of CHUCOW and 11 miles SE of LILAN. Further gains have been made in SUDJEST and the Russians say that German attempts to break through to the city from the W have ceased.

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Authority: 236617
By: 36 NAVA Date:

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G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

From: 132200 Jan 45
TO : 142200 Jan 45
Via 7th Inf Div
In the Field
2400 January 1945

No. 188

Maps: No change

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

a. Enemy Front Lines: On Northern Front: CLERBOURG (1144), INGOLSHHEIM (1141), ASCHACH (1837), STUMMILLER (1836), FUHL (2035), eastern part of RITTERSHOFFEN (1533), eastern part of HATTEN (1833) and 222305.

In the Bridgehead Area: FT LOUIS (2322), southern part of DRUSENHEIM (1517), HERRLISHEIM (1214), 110140, 100130 and GAMESHEIM (1110).

b. Units in Contact: 21st Pz Div; 25th Pz Gr Div; 1st Bn, 937th Regt, 245th VG Div; Battle groups under command of 553rd VG Div.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

a. General Summary:

(1) Northern Front (TF WAHL): Enemy attack in RITTERSHOFFEN which started at the beginning of the period was under control by 2330 hrs. Only a slight gain was registered in the assault which was preceded by a heavy arty concentration, at least 2 enemy tanks were knocked out. Harassing arty fire was received during the night in the 3rd Bn, 313th Inf and 242nd Inf sectors. White phosphorous shells were fired in RITTERSHOFFEN. Patrols reported the bridge in INGOLSHHEIM guarded by the enemy although an arty air OP reported it passable only for foot troops. At 1900 hrs the enemy was reported attempting to repair the bridge and our arty started a program of harassing fire on it. The hill at 173405 was reported clear. Heavy fighting continued in RITTERSHOFFEN and HATTEN during the day with our troops making some progress in the latter town. At 2000 hrs tank were heard in ASCHACH. Enemy air was again active with two ME 262's bombing vic 1134 with AP bombs at 0915 hrs. An 8 second delay in explosion was reported. Three ME 262's bombed 1134 and 085342 between 1143 and 1211 hrs. Two ME 262's were over the Div sector between 1500 and 1540 hours and bombings were reported in NIEDERRETSCHDORF and SURBOURG. Two of the planes were believed damaged by the 463rd AA Bn. One ME 262 was believed shot down yesterday and to have landed in enemy territory. At 2200 hrs the enemy was apparently launching an attack in HATTEN.

(2) Bridgehead Area: Harassing arty fire fell in all our sectors during the night with some interdiction fire placed near bridge at 096188. Patrols reported a mine field between 096117 and 098121. One enemy patrol of approximately 25 men was reported driven back by CC B, 12th Armd Div, vic 105145 at 0600 hrs, with at least one wounded and one killed. Later it was reported that this patrol might have slipped through the lines, but a search during the day was not fruitful. Some arty fire was received vic 110215 at 1200 hrs. DRUSENHEIM and ROHRWILLER (1217) were shelled and the road between BISCHWILLER and ROHRWILLER was harassed by arty. Tanks of Co. "B", 47th Tk Bn, operating in the 314th Inf sector, knocked out two enemy tanks vic 135156 at 1400 hrs. Patrols of the 242nd Inf engaged enemy patrols vic 201217 and 216300 with unknown results. Another enemy patrol was also observed vic 210294 at 1525 hrs. A 314th Inf patrol which crossed into southern part of DRUSENHEIM drew fire from 2 MGs which were silenced by our mortars. Enemy planes attacked the Div QM Co area in BRUMATH at 2000 hrs, dropping two 500 lb bombs resulting in one vehicle being damaged.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- PWs evacuated through PM: 13.
- PWs evacuated through medical channels: 3
- Total PWs to date: 21,803
- 2 enemy tanks destroyed in Div sector during the period. Total enemy tanks knocked out to date: 125
- Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, PW Enclosure, Inf Regts, HAGUENAU.
- 45th Div sector: Strongly defensive attitude in west part of sector substantiated by increased number of mines and booby traps. Heavy mortar and arty fire on all forward elements in area SARRENSBURG-ALTHORN-WILDENRUTH-BENBACH (0840393). 2nd Bn, 12 SS Regt continues intense opposition vic 4795385. Company strength counterattack that area repulsed at 1545A.

- 1 -

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(O-V-E-N)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 738017
By: 36 NND Date: _____

SECRET

g. Weather Forecast: 15 Jan - No precipitation. Visibility 0-1 mile at dawn, improving to 2-3 miles in thick haze. Continued cold. Min Temp: 20°. 16 Jan - High clouds throughout day. No precipitation. Visibility 2-1 mile due to haze and fog, improving to 4-5 miles after 1100 hrs. Min Temp: 16°.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

- To attack on Northern Front with up to division strength.
- To defend from present positions on Northern front.
- To patrol in ROESCHWOOG-ROPPEHEIM-KAUFEENHEIM area.
- To reinforce and defend present bridgehead.

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G-2

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CONSOLIDATED IPW ANNEX TO G-2 PERIODIC REPORT NO. 188.

1. Unit Identification

Unit	PWs	Place	Captured	Date
2nd Co, 192 PGR, 21 Pz Div	3	vic RITTERSHOFFEN	1-313 Inf	14 Jan
5th Co, " " " "	1	HATTEN	2-313 Inf	
5th Co, " " " "	1	HATTEN	315 Inf	12 Jan
Hq Co, 25 AT Bn, 25 PG Div	1	RITTERSHOFFEN	"	14 Jan
2nd Co, 119 PGR, 25 PG Div	2	N RITTERSHOFFEN	313 Inf	14 Jan
2nd Co, 2nd SS Police Regt	1	vic HERLLISHEIM	314 Inf	"
Battle Group Moltke	1	RITTERSHOFFEN	315 Inf	"
2nd Co, Hannibal III	2	vic INGOLSHHEIM	222 Inf	"

2. Deserter PWs in Civilian Clothes Apprehended by 79th CIC Detachment

Unit	PWs	Last Unit Location at	Date
470th Inf Repl Tng Bn	1	Tuebingen	14 Nov
TOTAL PWS PROCESSED	13		

3. Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition

PW of the 470th Inf Repl Tng Bn was last with his unit on 14 Nov at Tuebingen where he received a furlough at BISCHWILLER and deserted.

The 1st Bn, 192nd Pz Gr Regt was last known to be in position on high ground north of main road between Hatten and Rittershoffen. The 1st Co, with an approx strength of 30-40 men was in position at 16953405 with the support of two tanks. PW states that one of the two tanks was destroyed and the other withdrew in direction of Hatten. The 2nd Co was in position just south of the 1st Co, with a strength of 60 men. PW estimates Bn strength to be approx 225 men and states that the entire regiment has suffered heavy losses.

The 2nd Bn, 192nd Pz Gr Regt is in position in the town of RITTERSHOFFEN. PW estimates of Bn strength is approx 250 men. There have been, according to PWs, persistent rumors and statements of officers of their Bn that a Bn, Regt or Div of Paratroopers was to relieve them. This relief is already 36 hours late. Estimates as to the armor in Rittershoffen vary between 10 and 20 assault guns and tanks. Three 75mm assault guns are in vic of school house. The 192nd Pz Gr Regt has received replacements from the 220th Inf Repl Tng Bn which was moved intact from Fane Island, Denmark, on 28 Dec to Landau in approx 58 RR cars holding 35 men each. These replacements apparently have been 75% absorbed in the 21st Pz and the 25th Pz Gr Divs with a repl reserve of approx 300 men still in Wissembourg. The 220th Inf Repl Tng Bn personnel were almost 100% of Polish nationality.

The 25th AT Bn, 25th Pz Gr Div is composed of three companies, a Bn Hq and a supply and maintenance company. Two of the three companies are Assault Gun Co's having 12-75mm Assault guns apiece; the third Co is an AT Co having 12-75mm AT guns, motor drawn. PW states that all 12 Assault guns are either destroyed or temporarily disabled, and that the 1st Co has lost approx 6 of its original 12 Assault guns. Hq Co consists of 20 men who comprise a Communications section and a Message center. PW of this unit heard from the CO that two Para Divs were to relieve the 21st Pz and 25th Pz Gr Divs. PW states that one Arm Inf Bn and the 3rd Co, 25th AT Bn are divided and in position N and S of Hatten to protect the town.

PW of the 2nd Co, 119th Pz Gr Regt has suffered heavy losses and that the entire 1st Bn has been consolidated and formed into a group with an approx

(Cont'd)

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Authority: *WFO 735617*
By: *SB* NNA: Date: *1/10/01*

strength of 160 men. PW states that the 1st Bn is now in Rittershoffen. PW estimates that the strength of the 2nd Bn, 119th Pz Gr Regt are also in Rittershoffen. PW estimates that the strength of the 2nd Bn is approx 200 men of which approx one-half are in Rittershoffen and the other half in Hatten. PW states that there are 20 tanks and assault guns in Rittershoffen of which approx 8 have been knocked out; and that there are approx 8 tanks and assault guns still active in Hatten. PW states that the armor in these two towns is all that is left of the Armor of both the 21st and 25th PG Divs.

The 1st Bn, 2nd SS Police Regt crossed the Rhine the night of 9-10 Jan coming from Scherzheim. PW states that the Bn, after two days, was sent to Herrlisheim which the Americans had evacuated. The Bn went into position along the western edge of the town. The 4th Co, has a strength of approx 150 men armed with 9 MGs and 8-80mm mortars. PW states that one-half of the Bn is always in foxholes and trenches west of the town and the other half is in the town resting. PW has seen no tanks in Herrlisheim in the past two days, and did not know of any German armor in the Bridgehead area. The Bn strength is approx 500-600 men with each company having 2 officers. All personnel are former air raid wardens, firemen and various types of Government employees, most of the personnel have been in the unit, and the Army, since Nov 44.

Battle Group Moltke is a company sized unit of approx 110 men armed with 9 LMGs and rifles in position in Rittershoffen. Personnel was drawn from supply units and trains of the 2nd Bn, 192nd Pz Gr Regt and organized 2 days ago. PW knew very little about the unit except that it was made up mostly of older personnel that ordinarily would be considered unfit for military service.

Hannibal III is a unit of Bn size which is probably under the control of the 245th VG Div. The Bn was organized approx one month ago in the vic of Darmstadt from members of the 114th Repl Bn and GAF personnel. 3 weeks ago the unit moved to Niederrotterbach with 4 Co's and a strength of 300 men, to the pillboxes in that vic. 8 days ago the Bn moved to Willer vic of Wissembourg and personnel were drawn from the 1st and 3rd Co's to bring the strength of the 2nd Co up to 85 men. The 2nd Co then was moved to position south of the town of Ingolsheim to take up a defensive position. PW believes that the remainder of the Bn has also moved down to the vic of Ingolsheim, since the Bn CP is now in Kiedseltz. PW believes that a unit named Battle Group Siemann is on their west flank.

Ten of the twelve prisoners processed today were deserters, 7 of the 10 deserters were Poles who spoke little or no German and did not have much tactical information, although very eager to help the Allied cause.

4. Morale

Morale: Fair. PWs taken from Hatten and Rittershoffen state that the morale of the troops in these two towns has declined considerably since the fighting started, due mainly to heavy casualties and only limited or no tactical success in the past few days.

5. Supply

Supply generally good. PW of the 25th AT Bn states that both gas and ammo are very plentiful and can be drawn in any quantities needed. Food on Northern flank still very good, with PWs stating that a hot meal is usually served between 1700 and 1800 hours. Supply in bridgehead area is apparently poor. PW taken from the 2nd SS Police Regt states that the food received is usually frozen and when reheated very often is spoiled. The 1st Bn, 2nd SS Police Regt was brought across the Rhine with 35 rds per rifle and 300 rds per MG.

6. Miscellaneous

The 1st Bn, 2nd SS Police Regt crossed the Rhine on a ferry improvised from four pontoons covered with planking and towed by a heavy motorboat. PWs crossed during the night and could not identify the place of crossing. PW of the 25th AT Bn states that the 35th Pz Gr Regt has suffered very heavy losses and has been pulled out of line to be given a temporary rest in Niederrodern. PW states that the houses in Niederrodern all billet at least 3 soldiers and that the town has been shelled only occasionally during darkness. Hq Co, 25th AT Bn has three "Guderian" TDs (75mm, long barrel, on MK IV chassis).

7. Enemy Installations

- Listening Posts and Outposts with 2 men and MG at 15554140.
- CP 2nd Bn, 192nd Pz Gr Regt 30 yds W of the church in Rittershoffen at 16113361.
- CP 192nd Pz Gr Regt 50 yds W of church in Rittershoffen at 16183381.
- 75mm AT gun in position at 14854235.
- CP 2nd Co, Hannibal III at 14914135.
- CP Hannibal III in Kiedseltz.

(O-V-E-R)

- 35th Pz Gr Regt in bldg at 22843401
- 25th AT Bn CP west of church in Niederroderm at 22893402.
- 6 tanks and 15 Armd Cars parked between bldgs and in barns in Niederroderm
- Approx 300 troops of 35th Pz Gr Regt in Niederroderm
- 2-105mm How at 19823513.

8. Personalities	Units	FPNs
Capt Spiegel	Bn CO, 25 AT Bn - -Hq Co 25 AT Bn	13857A
Lt Konz	Bn Adjutant	
Lt Ronracker	CO, 1st Co, 25th AT Bn	13857B
Lt Beuter	CO, 3rd Co, 25th AT Bn	13857D
Oberarzt Dr Lang	Bn Surgeon	
Capt Trott	CO, 4th Co, 2nd SS Police Regt	07338D
Capt Malden	Bn CO	
	5th Co, 192nd Pz Gr Regt	58899B
Lt Bauer (killed)	2nd Co, 119th Pz Gr Regt	35768C
Lt Royke	CO 6th Co, 192nd Pz Gr Regt	58899C
Capt Holzstass	Bn CO	
Lt Ede (killed)	CO, 1st Co, 192nd Pz Gr Regt	56623B
Lt Falkemann	CO, Battle Group Moltke	?
Lt Frazier	Co, 2nd Co, 192nd Pz Gr Regt	56623C
Capt Linz	Bn CO	

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE ITEM

German Soldiers in American Uniform Department - Division of Appeals and Apologies. (From 12th Army Group P & PW Daily Intelligence Summary, 5 Jan). Seven Germans caught in American uniforms in First Army Territory, after having been sentenced to death, addressed the following appeal for reprieve to the Commanding General:

"This morning the undersigned were notified of their death sentences for having entered the American zone of operations in American uniforms, in contravention of the Geneva Convention. The undersigned beg to be allowed to present this appeal for reprieve to the Commanding General with the request for mercy and re-examination of the motives for the act. It may be repeated that the act was not voluntarily committed but on higher orders, and that the undersigned, in the truest sense of the word, were driven into certain death. The personal ambition of a single man is responsible for this criminal action. We were taken out of our old units because we knew English and with the understanding that we would be interpreters, which is an honorable assignment. Only shortly before our commitment were we informed of the criminal background of the whole enterprise. One of my comrades who refused to obey the order, was courtmartialled and undoubtedly sentenced to death. Therefore we could no longer escape death. We were captured by American troops without having fired a shot because we did not want to become murderers. We were sentenced to death and are now dying for some criminals who have not only us but also-and that is worse-our families on their conscience. Therefore, we beg mercy of the Commanding General; we have been unjustly sentenced, but we are de facto innocent." (VI Corps)

BBC NEWSCAST AS OF 112400

WESTERN FRONT: The Allies are closing in on HOUFFALIZE and gains from the S and SW towards the town, have been made. On the First Army front progress has been made in the attack from the vicinity of STAVELOT though the enemy has counterattacked with armor. On the Third Army front gains have been made from BASTOGNE. To the S tank battles are raging in and near RITTERSHEIM and HATTEN where Seventh Army troops are inching forward.

EASTERN FRONT: The Russians made 15 mile gains in S POLAND. They crossed the NIDA RIVER and punched on to cut the WARSAW-CRACOW RR. PINCZOW was taken and the Russians are 30 miles E of CRACOW and 15 miles SW of KIELCE. In CZECHOSLOVAKIA the advance continues and LUCENEC has been taken. More progress has been made in BUDAPEST. The Germans report that the Russians are attacking from WARSAW N to EAST PRUSSIA.

PACIFIC THEATER: American troops continue to advance on LUZON and are now 820 miles inland. The bridgehead on LINGAYEN GULF has been extended, 20 miles to the west and 10 miles to the North.

B-29's today made a raid on JAPAN.

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Authority: ND 735017
By: SB NADA Date:

SECRET

PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 142200 Jan 45
 TO: 152200 Jan 45
 Hq 19th Inf Div
 In the Field
 152400 January 1945

No. 189

Maps: No change

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

a. Enemy Front Lines: On Northern Front: CLEEBOURG (1144), INCOLSHHEIM (1441), ASCHBACH (1837), STUNDWILLER (1836), BUHL (2035), eastern part of RITTERSHOFFEN (1533), eastern part of HATTEN (1833) and 222305.

In the Bridgehead Area: FT LOUIS (2322), southern part of DRUSENHEIM (1517), HERRLISHHEIM (1214), 110440, 100130 and GANTSHEIM (1110).

b. Units in Contact: Elements of 21st Pz Div and 25th Pz Gr Div; 1st Bn, 20th Para Regt, 7th Para Div; 1st Bn, 937th Regt, 245th VG Div; Battle groups under command of 553rd VG Div.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIODa. General Summary:

(1) Northern Front (TF WAHL): The enemy attack in HATTEN which began at the start of the period consisted of an unestimated number of infantry and 4 tanks. The attack was stopped by 2330 hrs, after the Germans had made some progress. During the night heavy traffic was reported moving from ASCHBACH and BUHL to HATTEN. Patrols also reported traffic from FORSTFELD (2228) to HATTEN by way of 222305 and from FORSTFELD to the East. The enemy in HATTEN resumed the attack, with infantry and flame throwing tanks, at 1450 hrs and made five attempts to advance before subsiding at 0645 hrs. The third attack of the period in the town was reported at 1450 hrs when an estimated bn of infantry attacked from the East, supported by tanks. The Germans made some gains but after the arrival of friendly tanks it appeared that the ground had been recovered by the end of the period. Fighting continued in RITTERSHOFFEN and at 1930 hrs our troops received a heavy barrage of mortar and arty fire. A patrol of the 3rd Bn, 313th Inf, killed 2 enemy vic 187352 at 1055 hrs. 20 rounds of heavy mortar fire fell in OBERROEDERN (1735) around noon. Patrols of the 242nd Inf received MG fire from vic 204313 and 200312. Vehicular traffic was reported going from BUHL to HATTEN at 2025 hrs.

(2) Bridgehead Area: HAGUENAU received heavy caliber arty fire during the night and ROHRWILLER received occasional medium battery concentrations as well as SP fire. A group of enemy observed between the canal and 091133 at 0800 hrs was taken under arty fire. DRUSENHEIM was shelled by a few rounds of mortar at 1000 hrs and some vehicular movement was heard in the southern part of town. At 1900 hrs vehicular activity was heard in the southern part of DRUSENHEIM and in HERRLISHHEIM.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- PWs evacuated through PM: 5
- Total PWs to date: 21,808
- No enemy tanks destroyed during the period.
- Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, PW Enclosure, Inf Regts, HAGUENAU.
- 45th Div sector: Enemy activity decreased in ALTHORN - WILDENGUTH area as 257th Div apparently consolidated positions to a new eastern boundary after relief of unknown elements of 6 SS Wtn Div. Strong counterattack vic Q815394 repulsed at 1620 hrs but there are indications of renewal of attack in that area. Local counterattacks vic Q893435 at 1600 hrs and vic Q915435 at 1315 hrs repulsed.
- A combat patrol of the 222nd Inf went looking for a fight this afternoon and found it. It ran across 20 Germans north of CLEEBOURG and in the ensuing fight 9 enemy were killed, 3 were believed to be wounded, and the remainder left in a hurry. The 222nd Inf patrol withdrew without casualties.
- Weather Forecast: 16 Jan - Cloudy with light rain or snow by evening. Haze will restrict visibility which will reach 2-3 miles by 1200 hrs. Min Temp 32°.
- 17 Jan - Overcast with light rain in morning, but clouds breaking in afternoon. Visibility will improve to 6-8 miles in afternoon. Min Temp: 25°.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

- To attack on Northern Front with up to division strength.

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(O-V-E-R)

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Authority: ND 735017
 By: 36 NAVA Date:

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- To defend from present positions on Northern Front.
- To patrol from present positions on Northern Front.
- To reinforce and defend present bridgehead.

DOHRMANN
G-2

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CONSOLIDATED IPW ANNEX TO G-2 REPORT NO. 189

1. Unit Identifications

Units	PWs	Place	Captured	Date
8th Co, 2nd SS Police Regt	1	vic HERRLISHEIM	232 Inf	14 Jan

2. Deserter PWs in Civilian Clothes Apprehended by 79th CIC Detachment

Units	PWs	Last Unit Location at	Date
5th Pz Engr Repl Bn	1	Ulm on Danube River	16 Nov
1st Co, 48th Inf Tng Bn	1	Gnessen, Poland	9 Sept
Aviation Signal Co. z.b.v.	1	Landau	23 Nov
6th Co, 952nd Inf, 161st Inf Div	1	vic Blamont	2 Nov
TOTAL PWs PROCESSED	5		

3. Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition

8th Co, 2nd SS Police Regt crossed the RHINE the night 7-8 Jan with a strength of approx 100 men. Crossing was made at 14181029 by a ferry holding approx 60 men. Wooden landing ramps extending approx 6 yds into the river have been built for landing docks. These ramps are at 14001036 and 14181029. PW is a Yugoslavian deserter and came across the Rhine with the trains of the Co, consisting of 8 horses, 3 wagons and one field kitchen unit. Entire trains and Co CP are in OFFENDORF at 12921201. 8 tanks were seen in OFFENDORF, 6 Jan and PW states that 6 of them returned to East side of Rhine. One platoon of the 8th Co is in position at 10011229. PW states that Wehrmacht units are on both North and south flank. PW states that the entire Bn is somewhere in the vic with 2 Co's in OFFENDORF and two companies on line. All three Bns of the 2nd SS Police Regt have now been identified in the bridgehead area.

4. Morale

Morale of troops in bridgehead area fair to poor. Morale in northern sector very high amongst para units captured by 14th AD, fair to good in units of the 21st Pz and 25th Pz Gr Divs.

5. Supply

Supply in bridgehead area poor. PW states that a typical days ration for an EM is as follows: 30 grams of butter or oleo, 25 grams of sausage, 300 grams of black bread and 4 cigarettes. PW states that supplies are hauled from FREISTATT every fourth day. Supply on northern sector good. Both food, ammo and gas supplies entirely adequate.

6. Summary of Prisoners Captured by 14th Armd Div

Place	Unit	Est Strength
HATTEN	1st Bn, 20th Para Regt, 7 Para Div	400-500
HATTEN	Elmts 125th Pz Gr Regt	200 ?
HATTEN	2nd Co, 22nd Pz Regt	6-10 tks in HATTEN
RITTERSHOFFEN	7th Co, 125th Pz Gr Regt	40
RITTERSHOFFEN	1st Co, 192nd Pz Gr Regt	?
RITTERSHOFFEN	Elmts 20th Para Regt	100

PW of the 1st Co, 119th Pz Gr Regt stated that his company was to be relieved in Rittershoffen by a Para Co and that he saw a group of Para troops moving into the town at 0500 13 Jan. Apparently the 7th Para Div was to relieve the 25th Pz Gr Div and the 21st Pz Div in the Rittershoffen-Hatten area, as evidenced by persistent rumors from PWs of the former two units, interrogated in the last 2 days, but that our constant attacks on these two villages have made relief difficult. The 35th Pz Gr Regt, 25th Pz Gr Div has been out of contact since the first attack on Hatten. PWs state that the regt had a 60% casualty rate and is

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Authority: NND 735017
By: SB NARA Date:

now located in Niederroderm in reserve for perhaps one more attack by the two armored type divisions. The two armored type divisions, according to PWs still have approx 20 tanks in Schlethal that can be repaired and ready for duty in the next two days, 8-10 tks and assault guns in Hatten that are active and approx 6 assault guns and tanks in Rittershoffen. Relief of any of the units of the 21st Pz and 25th Pz Gr Divs has apparently not yet been accomplished nor is it deemed feasible at the present time with the constant pressure that is brought to bear on these two towns. The entire 119th Pz Gr Regt is, according to PWs, still in the town of Rittershoffen with an approx strength of 300-350 men plus elements of the 20th Para Regt and elements of the 125th Pz Gr Regt and the 192nd Pz Gr Regt. In Hatten the 1st Bn, 20th Para Regt, elements of the 125th and 192nd Pz Gr Regts are in position with a strength approximately totaling 1000-1200 men including elements of the 25th AT Bn protecting the flanks of the town.

7. Enemy Installations

Class I DP in Freistatt at 14760751
 8th Co, 2nd SS Police Regt CP plus trains at 12921201.
 One Platoon of Inf plus MGs at 10011229
 2-2mm AA Guns at 12911259
 75 AT guns at 12451252 and 12201255
 From 14th AD PWs
 QPs at 19623501, 17873316, 17903410
 Div CP in Eberbach at 24103642
 One btry of 4-150mm Hows at each of the following places: 23403422
 22823443
 21983525
 2-3 Russian 122mm How at 22203390
 Mixed AAA Concentrations at 22233411 and 23803422.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE ITEMS

The following is a translation of extracts from a document by the CO of the 915th VG Regt and was intended for the companies of his Regt to better their local security after he had made an inspection and found much to his dislike. The order was never received by the companies in BETTENDORF as the runner with message was captured before he could make delivery.

Gren Regt 915

S-3

7 Jan 1945

CRITIQUE OF POSITIONS # 3

2. At present basic tactic principles are not being observed. "Security Reconnaissance". Reason is to be carried out towards neighboring units as well as the enemy. Every soldier should know the way to his neighbor strong point in the dark. Security guards and outposts are to clear their field of observation in the direction of the enemy and not behind houses.

3. Co's and Bn's will be issued winter clothing. This is not to be issued but stored with the Co supply until the next attack. Articles for winter camouflage are to be taken out of destroyed houses.

4. "Haus Schwalberg" which is occupied by a squad of the 4th Co had no security out at 1800 hrs. This squad has sleeping quarters 500 meters away from Hv MG. The squad leader was not sufficiently instructed in the tactical use of his weapon and Lt Vogel has never been near the positions. I require more activity from my Co Commanders.

5. The squad which was supposed to provide security for the road along the shore was found partly sleeping and the others eating in their quarters. The squad leader is to be court-martialed and the men to be instructed in their battle assignments.

6. A horse drawn vehicle of the 8th Co was driving at 1930 along the road Tandel-Gilsdorf without an assistant driver. The driver did not know his destination. A short while later the vehicle ended up in the ditch. I order all vehicles which are driven after dark to have an assistant driver.

7. Because men of the 7th and 8th Co's were not billeted in cellars the Bn recently had 2 casualties. I order all CPs and Orderly Rooms to install themselves in basements.

(OVER)

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Authority: WD 736017
 By: 36 NAVA: Dajr

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE ITEMS (Cont'd)

10. 2 Bn will take contact with the 7.5 and 8.8 AT weapons committed in its sector.
11. Lt Perleberg and CO of 2 Bn will establish the defensive field of fire for 7.5 Inf How's, 8 cm mortars and 120mm mortars and incorporate it into the Regt fire plan. The requirements of 2 Bn are to be given special consideration.
12. The running around of civilians, even with white flag, is to be stopped at once by 2 Bn. The civilians are to be acquainted with orders of Army Group.
13. Outposts are to secure the nightly construction of positions. (This goes especially for 6 Co). The spoils are to be camouflaged with snow.
14. All intelligence and observations are to be immediately reported to Regt. For example on the night of 8 Jan 45 a blacked out enemy vehicle drove between Galgenberg and Schalbush. Such enemy movements are to be countered immediately with Hvy Inf Wpns and Arty.
15. All corpses in the Regt's sector are to be reported to the GTO, Dr Habenan.
16. Paymaster Waman of 2 Bn was relieved of 100 lbs of Carbide without his knowledge. He will not be released from this Regt until he makes up this shortage. Technical assistants of the staff should go and see the Bn Comdr almost daily in order to receive instructions. This SOP has been customary with the Regt for a long time and works out well.
17. Code words will be used in all radio and telephone communications within the Regt.
18. Messages, results of Recon patrols etc., are to be reported to Regt in exact and precise military manner. Long tales are undesirable.
19. All messengers will be dressed in proper uniforms. (For special compliance to Sgt Brunner). Note: He's the scapegoat in Par #5 too!
20. All OPs will keep a journal. These are to be passed on to Bn CO and Strong Point CO's.
21. On my return from 2 Bn via Umreck, Schwalsberg and Unterlönche I was unchallenged. Moving patrols are to alleviate this situation.
22. I require more activity and harshness from my officers and non-coms in order to stop this false feeling of security among the men.
23. Messenger routes are established. They will be built up, marked and fences in the way will be torn down. All messengers will know the route to adjoining units.
24. I demand, after leading this Regt for almost 3 weeks, that the soldiers know me by name and know that I am the Regt's CO.

Signed: Hoffmeister

(See: 5th Div) (both Div)

** ** *

RBC NEWSCAST AS OF 152400

WESTERN FRONT

On the Northern flank of the ARDENNES Salient, the Americans have forced their way in the town of HOUFFALIZE, which is in the center of the salient. They are also within 7 miles of ST VITH another key Nazi held road network center. The Germans in their retreat are being aided by a very heavy fog and low hanging clouds. Secretary of War Stimson has announced that the American losses in killed wounded and missing in the German counteroffensive total 40,000 as compared to 90,000 for the Germans. In ALSACE the Seventh Army has repulsed several German attacks in the towns of RITTERSHOFFEN and HATTEN.

EASTERN FRONT

In an Order of the Day, accompanied by a 200 gun salute, STALIN has announced the capture of KIELCE, a key transportation center in southern Poland. The Russians are now only 25 miles from CRACOW and a bare 55 miles from the German border at one point. They have also made some progress in CZECHOSLOVAKIA. The beleaguered German garrison in BUDAPEST has been compressed into still a smaller part of the city, and have lost 5000 prisoners in one day.

PACIFIC THEATER

The Americans are expanding their bridgehead in LINGAYEN GULF and are now 28 miles inland, and are advancing in 5 separate columns. In TOKYO there is quite a stir in governmental circles, with an imminent cabinet shakeup in the wind. The Prime Minister has reported to the Emperor, in an effort to explain the recent Japanese losses.

MISCELLANEOUS

Norwegian paratroopers have blown an important bridge, on the main line of retreat for the Germans, in North Norway.

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Authority: WFO 735017
By: SB NAVA Date: _____

FROM: 152200 Jan 45
 TO: 162200 Jan 45
 HQ 79th Inf Div
 In the Field
 162400 January 1945

No. 190

In FB: No Change.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy Front Lines: On Northern Front: CLEMBURG (1114), INGOLSHHEIM (1441), ASCHBACH (1837), STUNDWILLER (1836), BUHL (2035), eastern part of RITTERS-HOFFEN (1533), eastern part of HATTEN (1833) and 222305.

In the Bridgehead Area: FT. LOUIS (2322), DALHUNDEN (1815), southern part of DRUSENHEIM (1517), HERRLISHEIM (1214) and GAMBESHEIM (1110).

b. Units in Contact: Elements of 21st Pz Div and 25th Pz Gr Div; 1st and 2nd Bn's, 20th Para Regt, 7th Para Div; 1st Bn, 937th Regt, 245th VG Div; Battle groups under command of 553rd VG Div.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD.a. General Summary:

(1) Northern Front (TF WAHL): Harassing arty fire was reported during the night. The volume of vehicular traffic seemed less than on previous nights. Some progress was made in HATTEN last night and during the day against stiff opposition but the enemy became more aggressive late in the afternoon. RITTERS-HOFFEN received arty and mortar fire with less activity reported than in the past few days. Patrols of the 222nd Inf saw 4 enemy vic 145435 and 3 others vic 160403. In one 45 minute period prior to dawn 9 trucks moved from STEINSELTZ to REIDSALTZ. HOFFEN (1536) received heavy concentrations of mortar and arty fire during the afternoon with 300 rounds falling between 1150 and 1208 hrs. Mortar and arty fire fell vic 140414 and mortar fire was received at 148328 at 1645 hrs. The enemy counterattacked in HATTEN at 1710 hrs and heavy fighting was going on at the end of the period with an estimated 3 co's of Germans. The 315th Inf reported the enemy using a mortar estimated to be 180mm. Our MSR to HATTEN received 600 rounds of mortar and arty fire in addition to long range MG fire between dark and the end of the period. The 222nd Inf received long range MG fire from vic INGOLSHHEIM in addition to an increase in arty and mortar fire. ME-262's were active with strafing and bombing with AP bombs reported in NIEDERBETSCHDOERF and SCHWABMILLIM plus 2 rockets fired into KUHLENDORF.

(2) Bridgehead Area: Traffic was reported vic FORSTFELD (2228) at 0035 hrs as well as some movement in the FT. LOUIS area. The 314th Inf received a very heavy arty counter preparation in its 2nd Bn sector beginning at 0130 hrs and in its 3rd Bn sector in lesser intensity after 0200 hrs. DRUSENHEIM and ROHRMILLER continued to receive arty and mortar fire during the day. An outpost of the 232nd Inf repulsed a 15 man patrol vic 177208 at 0200 hrs. An estimated enemy company attempted to move from DALHUNDEN to SESSENHEIM but was engaged at INGOLSHHEIM and forced back to its starting point. An outpost of the 242nd Inf withdrew temporarily when a combat patrol applied pressure at 204307. After dark vehicular activity was reported in the FORSTFELD area. The 12th Armd Div made advances vic 1012 and the French were held up at the southern edge of BETTENHOFFEN (1009).

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

- PWs evacuated through PM: 27
- PWs evacuated through medical channels: 1
- Total PWs to date: 21836
- No enemy tanks destroyed during the period.
- Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, PW Enclosure, Inf Regt's, and HAGUENAU.
- 45th Div Sector: Enemy attack vic 811394 approx 1200 hrs developed into estimated 3 company effort against 157th Inf Regt. Initial attack was followed by heavy arty and mortar concentrations between 1300 and 1330 hrs. No change apparent in enemy dispositions in remainder of sector. Close contact maintained in ALTHORN - WILDENGUTH sector shows enemy remained defensive.
- P-47's made 90 sorties today in this sector hitting HERRLISHEIM, OFFENDORF, DALHUNDEN, NIEDERROEDERN, TRIMBACH, BEERBACH and SCHLIEFAL.

(U-V-L-R)

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h. Weather forecast: Jan 17 - Scattered to broken clouds with widely scattered snowsqualls in afternoon. Visibility 1 mile before 1000 hrs improving to 4-5 miles in afternoon. Min temp: 23 degrees.

- Jan 18 - Low overcast in morning becoming broken to overcast in afternoon. Moderate intermittent snow throughout period. Visibility 1 mile until 1100 hrs due to fog and snow, improving to 4-5 miles in afternoon, except 2 mile in snow. Min temp: 22 degrees.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES:
- To attack on Northern Front with up to division strength.
 - To defend from present positions on Northern Front.
 - To patrol from present positions on Northern Front.
 - To reinforce and defend present bridgehead.

3. PROSPECTS

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G-2
DEB

TO: JCS and the JCEC
FROM: G-2
SUBJECT: Consolidated PW Report No. 190
DATE: 16 Jan 1945

1. Unit Identification

Unit	PWs	Captured by	Place	Date
5th Co, 192nd PG Regt, 21st Pz Div	1	315th Inf	RITTERSHOFFEN	16 Jan

2. Deserter PWs Apprehended / 79th CIC Det:

Unit	PWs	Last Location	Date
10th Co, 147th Inf, 252nd Inf Div	1	KOVNO, LITHUANIA	Oct
2nd Co, 458th Inf Repl Tng Bn	1	POTS DAM	15 Sep
112th Inf Repl Bn	1	WIESBADEN	2 Dec
4th Co, 89th Inf Repl Tng Bn	1	GROSS BORN, POMERANIA	20 Oct
2nd Co, Battle Group Krampritz	1	WARSAW	19 Aug
3rd Co, 170th Inf Regt; 73rd Inf Div	1	WARSAW	20 Sep
4th SS Sig Repl Bn	1	MORCHINGEN	29 Aug
3rd Co, 7 Regt, SS Das Reich	1	NORMANDY	26 Jun
72nd GHC Arty Bn (Bgd?)	1	WARSAW	2 Dec
Convalescent Co, 169th Arty Regt, ? Div	1	HAMM	24 Sep
2nd Co, 1072nd Inf Repl Tng Bn	1	LATVIA	20 Sep
5th Co, ? Inf, 61st Inf Div	1	EILAU, W PRUSSIA	10 Dec
5th Naval Repl Bn	1	FRISIAN ISLANDS	25 Sep
Convalescent Co, 170th Inf Repl Tng Bn	1	TUEBINGEN	12 Nov
Convalescent Co, 9th Ren Repl Tng Bn	1	vic BERLIN	6 Sep
Hq 1st Bn, 162nd Inf, 61st Inf Div	1	LATVIA	6 Aug
Submarine Net Laying Unit V, SS Nagade	1	REHWALD, ESTONIA	10 Nov
General Hospital II	1	CHEMNITZ	5 Dec
3rd GAF Ground Crew Repl Command 215/XII	3	IHLINGEN	16 Nov
258th Sig Repl Co	1	KOLBERG	4 Sep
1st Inf Repl Tng Bn	1	INSTEBURG	8 Nov
7th Co, 464th Inf, 253rd Inf Div	1	S Russian Front	7 Nov
97th Static Inf Bn	1	BADEN-BADEN	23 Nov
1st Para Repl Bn	1	GARTELEGEN	3 Nov
Total PWs processed	27		

3. Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition:

PW of 5th Co, 192nd PG Regt, 21st Pz Div was one of 60 repl received by the 2nd Bn of this regt on 13 Jan from repl pool in WISSELBOURG. The 60 repl brought bn strength up to about 275 men. The PW's squad had 9 men after receiving repl, it has 3 men. Heavy casualties have been suffered by enemy troops from the extremely heavy American arty fire. PW talked to troops of 125th PG Regt in RITTERSHOFFEN, and stated that one bn of this regt is in RITTERSHOFFEN and probably one bn in HATTEN. He believed the whole 192nd PG Regt is in RITTERSHOFFEN. He has also seen approx one co of paratroops in RITTERSHOFFEN and estimates the co has a strength of 60-100 men. He estimates the present strength of 2nd Bn, 192nd PG Regt is approx 200 men, exclusive of Bn Hq and Trains.

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IPW ANNEX (Cont'd):

4. Morale: Fair. PW states that the morale of the older men in RITTERSHOFFEN is low, but that the younger men still have much of the "Do or Die for Hitler" spirit. Morale of paratroops taken by 14th Arm Div in RITTERSHOFFEN and HATTEN during the period is high.

5. Supply: The supply situation in RITTERSHOFFEN is apparently poor. PW states that food has to be carried into the village from HATTEN by hand and that no food was received night of 15 Jan. Ammo supply is adequate.

6. PWs Taken during period by 14th Arm Div: The Div captured 4 Pws, 3 of whom were from the 1st Co, 20th Para Regt and were taken in RITTERSHOFFEN; the fourth was from the 5th Co, 20th Para Regt and was taken in HATTEN, thus identifying the 2nd Bn of the regt for the first time. The 2nd Bn arrived in this sector the night of 14 Jan and immediately received orders to attack HATTEN from the S on 15 Jan. PW estimates bn strength to be 350-400 men with each co having 80-100 men. Pws of the 1st and 2nd Bn's, 20th Para Regt were questioned as to whether they were to relieve the units of the 21st and 25th Div's; they knew nothing about the subject and it is unlikely that the two arm type div's will be relieved until more units of the 7th Para Div arrive in this sector. Pws stated that the 7th Para Div, when known as Div Erdmann, had 3 regt's of 3 bn's each with approx 36-75mm hows in div arty for support. PW of 1st Co said his unit has suffered heavy losses due to mortar and arty fire and that the co now had a maximum strength of approx 60 men.

Pws captured by 232nd Inf vic DALHUNDEN (1921), not yet processed through the Div Cage, were from 6th Co, Bn Thomas. This bn crossed the RHINE with an estimated combat strength of 350 men divided into 4 co's. The bn crossed the river on 14 Jan at an old ferry site at 23182100 by means of a ferry made from a motor boat and pontons. The entire bn went to DALHUNDEN. On the night of 15 Jan a patrol was sent into SESSINHAIK to determine whether or not the town was clear of American troops. The patrol reported the village clear and on the morning of 16 Jan the 6th Co was told to occupy it, but the co drew fire as it approached the village and was forced to withdraw to DALHUNDEN. The Pws state that the bn - formed by the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Co's - was in the town of DALHUNDEN last night. Its mission, as understood by the BM's, was to occupy the bridgehead, enlarge it and eventually join the bridgehead further S.

7. Enemy Installations:

Bridge at 21233405

3-150mm hows near "ISSENBURG" at 15684748

8. Miscellaneous: PW of 192nd PG Regt searched house formerly occupied by American troops for food since he was very hungry. He found some badly mangled K-rations and a few cigarettes, but was chased away by a lieutenant from an arm unit. He later saw the lieutenant coming out of the house smoking a cigarette, and upon inspecting the house again he found many a K-ration.

9. Field Post Number

58899B

Unit

5th Co, 192nd PG Regt

Personalities

CO: Lt HOFFMAN

Bn CO: Capt MUSCHE

Regt CO: Maj KURZ

S-E-C-R-E-T

TANK KILLERS (Source: 101st US A/B Div)

(During the fight around BASTOGNE from 18 Dec to 10 Jan the 101st US Airborne Div, CC "R" 9th US Arm Div, CC "B" 10th US Arm Div and 705th PD Bn, destroyed approximately 165 Tks and SF guns. All agencies were used to the fullest, among them bazookas. How they were employed is related in the following reports, based on these questions put to members of bazooka crews: Type of tank; Range when first engaged; Range when stopped; Number of rounds required; Position of tank with reference to bazooka when hit; Part of tank hit; Individual tactics used; Comments.)

1. "Infantry preceded by Tks approached our lines with the two Tks moving abreast under their own MG and cannon fire. The infantry was successfully en-

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gaged by our riflemen, however, as soon as the Tks spotted a position in our lines they put point blank cannon fire on it. The Tks approached to within 30 yds of our bazooka position manned by 2 guns. The gunner on the left position fired 2 rounds at the nearest Tk. The track was broken. The crew members were killed trying to escape. The second Tk about 10 yds to the right, backed up to a position, hull defilade, and fired on the bazooka position. The other bazooka opened fire but was unable to reach the Tk due to its position. The ey tk then turned and retreated."

2. "On 2 different occasions bazookas were successful in stopping Tks by hitting them in the suspension system. In the case of the first Tk engaged, all but 1 man at the position had been killed and the soldier with the bazooka was only able to fire 1 round. He knocked the track off the Tk which spinned in position. The Tk remained manned throughout the subsequent actions, firing on our mk with cannon and MG fire. The Tk was retrieved that night. The second Tk which was engaged on another sector, was first sighted approaching over a hill approx 100 yds away. It was first fired upon while it was hull defilade. The round missed the Tk completely. The gunner then waited until it came within 40 yds of his position and fired another round hitting the Tk on the turret. There was no visible effect as the Tk continued advancing and firing. The next round hit the suspension system and broke a track causing the Tk to spin. Three more rounds were fired on the Tk hitting the hull in various spots with no visible results. The Tk continued firing throughout the rest of the action and was retrieved that night."

3. "A Mk IV Tk was knocked out in the conventional manner with one shot which penetrated the front of the Tk at 150 yds."

4. "An assault gun on Mk IV chassis was knocked out by employment of three bazookas as a team. The gun was engaged from the front and hacted when it was engaged from the left at about 50 yds. The track was knocked off. The bazooka on the right then fired and the crew members were killed trying to escape."

5. "A Mk IV Tk was stopped by 1 rd at 100 yds by a hit on the suspension system."

6. "2 Mk IV's were hit in the turrets from 10-20 yds range with angle shots. No apparent damage was done. As the Tks stopped and started to back away, they were continuously engaged from the front but no apparent damage was reported."

7. "Numerous half-tracks were knocked out by bazookas with hits on any portion of the vehicle at any range."

COMMENT: The bazooka can effectively knock out a Mk IV or smaller Tk except by hits on the turret and frontal armor. Apparently the best practice is to aim for the suspension system to immobilize the Tk then have a TD complete the destruction of the Tk. No hits were reported on the side or rear armor of Tks but it is believed a square hit there would penetrate a Mk IV in these parts.

The general opinion among front line troops that the bazooka is not effective against Mk V's and VI's was tested only once when a Mk V was not stopped by hits on the front and side. (TUSA)

S-E-C-R-E-T

HRC NEWS AS OF 162400 JAN

WESTERN FRONT: In the N the British Second Army started an offensive this morning near SITTARD. Moderate opposition was met at first, but later in the day the enemy resistance stiffened. The First Army's drive on ST. VITH continues with troops to the N 6 miles from the town and others 10 miles to the W. Following yesterday's capture of HOUFFALIZE other American units are pressing on to the S. In ALSACE the main action was the start of an advance against the enemy bridgehead N of STRASBOURG.

EASTERN FRONT: The Russians today disclosed that during the past 3 days the German lines have been broken S of WARSAW by an army group under ZHUKOV. These troops have broken out of 2 bridgeheads on the W bank of the VISTULA and have advanced 40 miles on a 70 mile wide front. WARSAW is being outflanked from the S for these troops at one point are 25 miles SW of the city. Further S KONEV'S army group advanced 15 miles during the day and is now 12 miles from CRACOW. RADOM was taken this evening and progress has been made toward linking up these two army groups. The Germans say that other drives are on against EAST PRUSSIA and in N POLAND and that the Russians are using 200-250 divisions in these winter offensives. In HUNGARY further progress was made in BUDAPEST where 120 more blocks were taken, plus 3000 PWs.

PACIFIC THEATER: On LUZON American troops are now 51 kilometers inland and are meeting their first Jap counterattacks. Air raids on CANTON and HONGKONG have been announced by NIMITZ.

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 By: **36** NAVA Date: _____

SECRET

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 162200 Jan 45
TO : 172200 Jan 45
Hq 79th Inf Div
In the Field
172400 January 1945

No. 191

Maps: No change

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

a. Enemy Front Lines: On Northern Front: CLEEBURG (1144), INGOLSHEIM (1441), ASCHBACH (1837), STUNDWILLER (1836), BUEL (2035), eastern part of RITTERSHOFFEN (1533), eastern part of HATTEN (1833) and 222305.

In the Bridgehead Area: ROESCHWOO (2125), STATTMATTEN (1921), DENGOLSHEIM (1821), southern part of DRUSENHEIM (1517), northern part of HERRLISHEIM (1214), OFFENDORF (1312), GAMESHEIM (1110).

b. Units in Contact: Elements of 21st Pz Div and 25th Pz Gr Div, 1st and 2nd Bns of 20th Para Regt, 2nd Bn of 19th Para Regt and 2nd Bn of 21st Para Regt of the 7th Para Div; 1st Bn, 937th Regt, 245th VG Div; Battlegroups under command of 553rd VG Div.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

a. General Summary:

(1) Northern Front (TF WAHL): Heavy traffic was again heard during the night. Medium to heavy volume of arty fire received along front during the night. Enemy patrols were active and forced our outposts to withdraw temporarily in some places. The 1st Bn, 315th Inf made some progress in its attack on RITTERSHOFFEN but met extremely stiff opposition and 500 rounds of mortar fire was received within the space of an hour and a half. Tank and mortar fire was heavy in HATTEN and the enemy exerted considerable pressure until a counterattack by our tanks succeeded in reducing it. RITTERSHOFFEN received its heaviest arty fire to date while the amount slackened in the HATTEN area. Patrols of the 222nd Inf reported an estimated platoon digging in from 108463 to 112460 at 1630 hrs. The 3rd Bn, 242nd Inf received 200 rounds arty fire vic 1821 between 1500 and 1600 hrs. The 827th TD Bn knocked out 2 enemy tanks and the 14th Armd Div accounted for several others.

(2) Bridgehead Area: Heavy mortar and arty fire was received at ROESCHWOO at 2330 hrs and the outpost was forced to withdraw under infantry pressure shortly after. Patrols were active in the 314th Inf sector and wagon movement was also heard during the night. The enemy became aggressive in the DALHUNDEN (1519) area, and a bn of infantry supported by 6 tanks or assault guns borrowed from the armored units in the HATTEN area, occupied DENGOLSHEIM (1821) STATTMATTEN (1921) and part of SEESSENHEIM (1822). The Germans also entrenched along the RR tracks vic 178208. Our counterattacking force cleared SEESSENHEIM during the afternoon and took approximately 30 PWs and caused the enemy considerable casualties in a stiff fight. 2 of the tanks were knocked out by arty and 2 others were probably destroyed. By dark the enemy had been pushed back east of the RR line. Patrols located 2 MGs and infantry at the mill vic 224284. ROHRWILLER received heavy concentrations of arty and mortar during the day. The 12th Armd Div made good progress during the day, capturing the southern part of HERRLISHEIM and taking nearly 300 PWs. One horsedrawn arty piece was knocked out vic 2223 at 1330 hrs by our arty. HAGUENAU received heavy caliber arty fire during the night.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. PWs evacuated through PM: 11
- b. Total PWs to date: 21,847
- c. 4 enemy tanks destroyed during the period with 2 probables. One 2 1/2 ton vehicle and one arty piece was also destroyed. Total enemy tanks destroyed to date: 129.
- d. Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, PW Enclosure, Inf Regts, HAGUENAU.
- e. 45th Div Sector: Enemy offered stiff resistance to our advance vic Q802390. Numerous strong probing actions initiated in Q8139 grid square and some infiltration reported vic Q810389. Patrol to CLIMBACH (R0846) reports town clear but estimated company digging in along edge of woods N of town.
- f. Weather Forecast: 18 Jan - Cloudy throughout day with scattered snow squalls. Visibility 1 - 2 miles in haze in morning improving to 3 - 4 miles in afternoon. Min Temp: 15°.

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By: *SB* NAVA Date: *10/1/01*

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19 Jan - Overcast broken low clouds with snow showers first part of period, becoming scattered and light after 1200 hrs. Visibility 8 - 10 miles lowering to 2 - 3 miles in light snow in afternoon. Min Temp: 5°

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

- To attack on Northern Front with up to division strength.
- To defend from present positions on Northern Front.
- To attack in regimental strength in AUENHHEIM - SESSENHEIM areas.
- To continue defense of present bridgehead positions.

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G-2

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CONSOLIDATED IPW ANNEX TO G-2 REPORT NO. 191

1. Unit Identifications

Unit	PWs	Place	Capture	Date
1st Co, 192nd Pz Gr Regt	1	vic RITTERSHOFFEN	313 Inf	17 Jan
6th Co, Bn Thomas	7	SESSENHEIM	232 Inf	16 Jan
70th Nebelwerfer Regt (Deserted in Lithuania)	1	AUENHHEIM	232 Inf	16 Jan

2 Deserter PWs Apprehended by 79th CIC Detachment

Unit	PWs	Last Unit Location	Date
3rd Co, 243rd AT Repl Bn (?)	1	WURZBERG	14 Nov
1st Btry, 40th Arty tng Bn	1	DRESDEN	13 Aug
TOTAL PWs PROCESSED	11		

3. Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition

Deserter PWs were Alsations, in civilian clothes, picked up by the 79th CIC Detachment, who had received furloughs and deserted.

PW of the 1st Co, 192nd Pz Gr Regt, 21st Pz Div was a member of a patrol which started out from 16563405 to determine the disposition of the enemy troops in the northern section of RITTERSHOFFEN. PW states that the Co has a strength of approx 30 men, and that the entire 1st Bn has suffered very heavy losses both here and in the vic of BITCHE. PW was in position at 16563405 with approx 80 other men. PW states that these 80 men might be the remainder of the 1st Bn. PW also stated that their mission at this point was to defend.

Bn Thomas was organized on 23 Nov in CONSTANCE, left that city on 2 Dec and arrived in STOLLHOFFEN after many short trips, on 2 Jan. Bn crossed the RHINE at 23182100 in a makeshift ferry consisting of lashed pontoons plus motor boat and occupied the town of DALHUNDEN on 13 Jan. PW states that a patrol was sent to SESSENHEIM on the night of 15 Jan and reported the town clear. 6th Co was dispatched to occupy the town on the morning of the 16th, met heavy fire in town and withdrew to DALHUNDEN after suffering some losses. Bn Thomas consists of the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Co's and has an approx strength of 300 - 350 men. The 8th Co is the heavy company having an undetermined number of HMGs and 80mm mortars. The Bn was in position around the town of DALHUNDEN with the 6th Co securing the western approaches to town. At night, 1/2 of the Bn is in line with the other half sleeping in houses in town. During the day, 1/4 of the Bn is on the line on the outskirts of the town and 3/4 are in houses in town.

During the period the 2nd Bn, 21st Para Regt attacked the town of SESSENHEIM from an assembly area in the forest vic of 180215. Approx 31 PWs, plus 6 wounded PWs were taken as the attack was repulsed. The Bn attack was made with the support of 6 - 8 Assault guns which officer PW identified as belonging to some armored unit north of the forest (Probably the 21st Pz or 25th Pz Gr Div). The Bn also had one squad of the 15th Co (Engr Co), 21st Para Regt, attached who were to lay mines to secure western approaches to the town, after it was taken. Mission of the attack was to stake the town and then secure it. According to PWs and captured documents, the 21st Para Regt consists of 2 Bns and a 15th Co. The last known location of the 1st Bn, 21st Para Regt was in HOLLAND.

(Cont'd)

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By: *SB* NAVA: Date: _____

IPW ANNEX (Cont'd)

The Bn has not been seen since. Bn strength is estimated at 360 men plus Bn Hq and trains, for a total of approx 440 men. Officer PW has heard that a 3rd Bn is now being formed, along with a 13th and 14th Co. The 6th Co, 21st Para Regt, pointed the attack and according to PWs had a strength of approx 55 men when it withdrew to the original assembly area. 6th Co, originally had 90 men, which were divided into two rifle platoons and a mortar squad with one 80mm mortar (called mortar platoon). The 5th Co, also participated in the attack and suffered approx 15-20 casualties of an original 85 men and is organized the same as the 6th Co, with the one difference being that the mortar squad has 2 80mm mortars. The 7th Co, according to PWs, stayed in the assembly area. It has a strength of 80 men organized the same as the 6th Co. The 8th Co, a heavy company, with 6 HMGs and 6-80mm mortars, was in general support.

The 7th Co, 19th Para Regt, is in ROESCHWOG. The company attacked pillbox vic 20y246 with a strength of 16 men. 2 of the 16 were killed, 10 severely wounded and captured, and 4 were captured in one piece. None of the PWs have seen the other Co's of the Bn but believe them to be somewhere in the ROESCHWOG area. PWs believe that the Regt had only 2 Bns, but one PW heard of a 9th and 10th Co and has friends in a 14th AT Co which has 50mm AT guns. The 1st Bn of the 19th Para Regt was last seen in HOLLAND on the 19th of December.

4. PWs Captured by 14th Armored Division

PWs were captured during the period by the 14th AD from the 1st and 5th Co's 20th Para Regt, 2nd Co, 125th Rcn Bn, and 1st Co, 192nd Pz Gr Regt. PW of the 125th Pz Rcn was captured vic of FORSTFELD by patrol of the 232nd Inf. PWs state that they were patrolling area between NIEDERKODERN and FORSTFELD and that they had heard that they were to be relieved by a Para unit. PW of the 1st Co, 20th Para Regt was captured in BITTERSCHOFFEN where PW estimated that 2 Co's of his bn were located there with a combined strength of approx 125 men. PW of the 5th Co, 20th Para Regt was captured in HATTEN. PW states that the entire Bn attacked HATTEN from the south with support of Engrs and tanks. PW states that the company lost 30 men and one officer in the attack and that the rest of the companies of the bn suffered similar losses. One PW states that the regt has 3 bns.

5. Miscellaneous

It seems likely that the upgrading of the Div Erdmann to 7th Para Div is not entirely completed. No definite proof that the regts of the div have 3 bns each has been evidenced, although several reports of the 3rd Bn being formed have been noticed. The 21st Para Regt, according to documents listing the code names of the units, has only 8 companies plus a 15th Co (Engr Co). According to documents and officer PW interrogated, the 21st Regt was supported in HOLLAND by the 38yth Hvy AA Bn which, according to officer, was a substitute for Div Arty. There have been no concrete evidences of the Div having organic artillery. None of the PWs of the 21st Para Regt have seen members of the Bn Thomas in DALHUNDEN. PWs of all Para units interrogated knew nothing of the bridgehead vic DRUSENHEIM - GAMB-SHEIM except what they heard over the radio. Officer PW stated that the eventual aim of the attacks vic SESSENHEIM-AUENHEIM by the 7th Para Div might be to link up with the bridgehead. Again nothing concrete along these lines could be determined. A total of 32 men plus some wounded were taken prisoner from the 5th, 6th 7th, 15th Co's and 2nd Bn Hq, 21st Para Regt, vic SESSENHEIM. PW of the 70th Nebelwerfer Regt was Alsatian deserter on furlough. His unit is in LITHUANIA.

6. Enemy Installations

- 2 - 75mm AT guns at 184195
- 2 HMGs at 18501961
- 4 Pillboxes occupied by enemy at 18302203
- 88mm AA-AT gun at 30802482

7. Supply and Morale

Supply good, ammo plentiful. Morale of Paratroops very high, personnel very security minded and required lengthy interrogation.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE ITEMS

Morale: When our Psychological Warfare broadcast, inviting surrender, was directed at members of Stomach Bns, it could also be heard by members of elms of 17th SS Pz Gr Div. To close of period no effect was observed among Stomachers, but 17 SS Div elms responded vigorously with attempt to ambush US trps and shelling of Regt'l CP from whose sector broadcast came. Prior to broadcast 4 deserters had entered our lines from 17 SS Div. (44th Div)

(C-V-E-R)

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Authority: DDO 235617
By: SB NANA Date: _____

Section II, Circular 34, War Department, dated 23 August 1944, is quoted:

"II. PRISONERS OF WAR. 1. Broadcasting by prisoners of war prohibited.

a. All military personnel when prisoners of war in enemy hands are prohibited from making announcements, transmitting messages, or making use of enemy wireless broadcasting systems for any purpose whatsoever.

b. All requests or attempts by the enemy to induce captured personnel to broadcast will be steadfastly refused at every stage of captivity.

c. Such broadcasts are used by the enemy for propaganda purposes. They are frequently found to be unreliable and inaccurate, and cannot be relied on by next of kin.

2. Paroles of captured or interned military personnel. a. United States military personnel who may become prisoners of war or be interned in neutral countries are forbidden to give their paroles.

b. The senior United States Officer, or noncommissioned officer, present with personnel of United States Forces who are captured by the enemy or interned by neutral countries may authorize such personnel to give their individual and temporary undertakings not to escape for definite short periods for definite purposes, for example, in order to secure medical treatment. Such undertakings will be in writing and will be scrupulously respected....." (SUSA)

Flak For some time our aircraft have been encountering various types of flak phenomena (transparent balls, "Snowball" flak, substances resembling window, "boxes" floating in mid-air, square objects connected by wires, small balloons of various colors, etc.,) Recently these have been seen near the front lines. Since little is known of these devices, it is requested that reports of their drifting to earth behind our lines be transmitted or any such object recovered by our troops, be forwarded to AG of S., G-2. (SUSA) (45th Div)

BBC NEWSCAST AS OF 172400

WESTERN FRONT: In the ARDENNES salient, the American First Army has captured VIELSALM in its drive from the West on ST VITH. In its drive from the North of ST VITH, American troops are only 5 miles from that city. To the west the ARDENNES Salient has ceased being a salient, and what remains is being pushed back into GERMANY.

In ALSACE; The Americans have "recaptured" RITTERSHOFFEN, just north of the HAGUENAU forest. Further south in the bridgehead just north of STRASBOURG, the Allies have "reentered" GAMBSHEIM.

EASTERN FRONT: In a special Order of the Day Marshal STALIN has announced the fall of WARSAW. He said "We have today captured WARSAW, the capital of our ally POLAND." It was captured in a swift envelopment from the N and S. The whole front from EAST PRUSSIA to CZECHOSLOVAKIA has exploded with at least four huge offensives which have made large gains. The drive north of WARSAW gained 25 miles on a 60 mile front in one day. The southernmost drive is 17 miles from GERMANY at its nearest point, and is about 5 miles from CRACOW. The capture of WARSAW rated 24 salvos from MOSCOW'S 324 guns.

In BUDAPEST the Red Army has captured 50 more city blocks and an additional 7000 prisoners, to bring their total haul to date to 25000 PWs in BUDAPEST alone.

PACIFIC FRONT: The Americans have made "satisfactory" progress on LUZON today. They have enlarged their bridgehead by 17 miles on the west, and in their drive south are 14 miles from a point half way between LINGAYEN GULF and MANILA.

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Authority: DDO 736017
By: 36 NAVA: Date: _____

S E C R E T

SIGNIFICANT ORDER OF BATTLE FACTS IN THE WEST - WEEK 8 - 15 JANUARY 1945

1. WESTERN FRONT

a. General.

The past week of intensified enemy defensive fighting was highlighted by the following significant Order of Battle facts:

(1) The enemy has apparently written off his ARDENNES salient.

(2) No new division was committed on the entire WESTERN FRONT, and for the second consecutive week no new division was committed in the dwindling penetration area.

(3) Continued lack of contact with 10 SS and 11 Pz Divs may indicate they are being hoarded for another offensive gamble in an effort to retain the initiative.

(4) Further indications of a possible build-up in the SAARLAUTERN (Q2880) - SAARBRUCKEN (Q4671) area.

b. Intensified Defensive Attitude

The marked intensification of the enemy's defensive attitude throughout the shrinking ARDENNES salient indicated that he has written it off as far as any further adventuring there is concerned. It was a gamble and to the extent that it enabled him to seize the initiative and to unhinge the Allied offensive he scored a major strategic victory. Now, he is engaged in trying to milk as much profits out of the terrain he overran by selling space for time as expensively as possible. All indications point to his endeavoring to effect a stalemate in salient on a defensive line on the favorable terrain extending NE from HOUFTALIZE (P6172) to ST VITH (P8588).

c. Lack of Reinforcements.

Not one division was contacted in the WEST during the week. Further, for the second consecutive week enemy forces in the penetration area had to be content with makeshift reinforcements shuttled from less threatened sectors. Despite continued heavy battle attrition, no new divisional reinforcements were produced. The enemy units in the ARDENNES salient had to fight it out with what could be scraped together for them from forces already committed. In other words, they had to "make their own grease". Two reasons may underlay this situation. One, the enemy may not have any available reserves he can spare, or two, he may be husbanding them in preparation for another offensive thrust.

d. Mobile Reserve

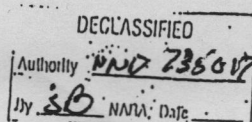
The continued absence from the battle line of 10 SS and 11 Pz Divs ties in directly with this situation. This determined hoarding of his only fit mobile reserve appears to have a two-fold purpose: (1) to keep at hand a mobile reserve to oppose an Allied offensive, and (2) to employ this reserve as the spearhead of another penetration attempt in an effort to retain the initiative.

e. Possible Build-up Area.

Tac/R and ground reports indicate a definite build-up in the SAARLAUTERN (Q2880) - SAARBRUCKEN (Q4671) area. Heavy movements from vic TRIER (L2129) to MERZIG (Q2094) also was reported. No identifications have been obtained, but everything points to preparations for aggressive operations. Numerous factors favor that. In the SAARBRUCKEN (Q4671) area the enemy already has a bridgehead which could be exploited to good advantage in a new offensive. The SAARLAUTERN area has an excellent road and rail network, a large and well-covered assembly region, and not over 40 miles to go to reach METZ. Finally, this is only campaigning ground for the enemy. The sector was the scene of his major effort in 1940 and there are great tactical, economic and psychological prizes to be won by a successful "gamble" in LORRAINE.

S E C R E T

(U-V-E-R)



ORDER OF BATTLE FACTS (Cont'd)2. SUMMARY

On the basis of the above enumerated facts it is indicated that:

- a. The enemy will continue his withdrawal from the ARDENNES salient under pressure.
- b. The enemy will continue to hold his mobile reserve for employment against a possible Allied offensive or to spearhead an offensive of his own designed to retain the initiative.
- c. The SAARLAUTERN - SAARBRUCKEN sector is a very sensitive one and bears the closest watchfulness. (TUSA)

*** **

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE ITEMSCHRISTMAS EVE AT BANDE

The following account of the massacre of 34 civilians on Christmas Eve at BANDE, P-3476, has been given by a young man, himself selected as one of the victims, who escaped on the way to execution.

When the Germans re-entered BANDE during the present offensive they adopted a menacing attitude towards the population. They ordered that all flags of the Allies be handed in by a certain time, after which a house to house search would be made, and anyone found in possession of such flags would be shot. A few flags were handed in to the authorities and publicly burnt, but most were concealed. The threatened search was never carried out.

On Christmas Eve, however, a number of men residing in BANDE were rounded up by German soldiers and marched off to a place where they were informed they would be sent to Germany to labor. All over the age of 35 were then told to go home, whereupon those who remained were informed that the Germans were about to revenge themselves for the killing of some soldiers in BANDE last September by Belgian Patriots. They had carried out recriminations at the time against the population by burning a number of houses. After this speech the men were told each to name three Communists living in the town. None complied although threatened with death if they refused. Then they were beaten up and taken to a lonely, burntout house which they were made to enter one by one. As each man went inside and put his foot on the first step of a flight leading down to a cellar, he was shot through the back of the head by a Gestapo official.

After the deed was done the Germans half covered the bodies with earth and planks. Finally they wrote on a wall of the house "Revenge the honor of our German heroes, killed by the Belgians."

Friends and relatives who enquired for the victims during the following days were told they had been sent to Germany to work.

The cold weather had kept the bodies, which were discovered today, in a state of good preservation. They show much signs of having been beaten before being shot through the back of the head, exactly as described. Only 14 have so far been identified and they include the bodies of four priests. (See: British XXX Corps) (VII Corps.)

SS Standartenfuehrer Hans Lingner, CO, 17 SS Pz Gr Div GOETZ VON BERLICHINGEN

29 Year old SS Standartenfuehrer (SS Colonel) Hans Lingner was captured by 44th US Inf Div in vic of RIMLING (Q6555), accompanied by his Aide and Sgt chau rrier. He had been promoted to his present rank about one month ago, when he assumed command of 17 SS Pz Gr Div. His previous appointments were: C/S of 1 SS Pz Div, C/S of 10 SS Pz Div, and C/S of 17 SS Pz Gr Div. Hans Lingner has been serving the SS for the past 10 years; he is thoroughly imbued with the doctrines of Nazism. According to SHAEF, he is the first SS Divisional commander, in action, captured on the Western Front. (SUSA)

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 by **36** NARA Date

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G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

59
20 Jan 45
FROM: 172200 Jan 45
TO : 182200 Jan 45
Hq 79th Inf Div
In the Field
182400 January 1945

No. 192

Maps: No change

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

a. Enemy Front Lines: On Northern Front: CIEBOURG (1144), INGOLSHEIM (1441), ASCHBACH (1837), STUNDWILLER (1836), BUIL (2035), eastern part of RITTERSHOFFEN (1533), eastern part of HATTEN (1833) and 222305.

On Eastern Front and Bridgehead Area: FORSTFELD (2228), HOLSCHWOG (2125), SESSENHEIM (1822), 175205, southern part of DRUSENHEIM (1517), HERBILSHEIM (1214), OFFENDORF (1312), GAMBESHEIM (1110).

b. Units in Contact: Elements of 21st Pz Div and 25th Pz Gr Div; 20th Para Regt, 2nd Bn of 19th Para Regt and 2nd Bn of 21st Para Regt of the 7th Para Div; 1st Bn, 937th Regt, 245th VG Div; Battle groups under command of 553rd Div.

c. Reserves and Other Forces Capable of Intervention:

10 SS Panzer Div "FRUNDSBERG". Recent information from higher Hq places the 10 SS Pz Div in the KALSERLAUTERN area. Persistent PW statements to the effect that they saw SS troops in rear areas and that after having pushed through the hills (S of REIPERTSWILLER), they will be followed up by a Mtz or Pz Div may lend credibility to this information. One PW mentioned the 10 SS Div "FRUNDSBERG" as one of the units destined to attack in the REIPERTSWILLER salient. However, none of the PWs seem to have any definite knowledge of any unit.

This Div was formed in SW FRANCE during the winter 1942/43 and was first committed in the NORMANDY campaign where it suffered heavy casualties, following which, in Oct 1944, it was withdrawn to GERMANY for reorganization. The Div was next identified by the Second British Army in HOLLAND towards the middle of November. Withdrawn from the line early in December the Div was believed to be held in immediate reserve in HOLLAND until the middle of Dec., when it was believed to have become part of the 6 SS Pz Army, forming at that time, but the fact that this Army was committed during the first days of the German counteroffensive without 10 SS Pz Div might indicate that Div, in fact, was no part of the 6th SS Pz Army. The exact location of the Div was never definitely established since its withdrawal from HOLLAND, though various reports placed the Div first in the KARLSRUHE area, in the center of the German salient on First US Army front and in the COLOGNE area.

Present effective combat strength of Div is estimated to be 6000 plus about 80 tanks. The Div is composed of 21 and 22 PGR, both having 3 bns each, plus a 13th (Inf How) and a 14th (AT Co) Cos. The 10 SS Pz Regt is believed to have 3 bns. 10 SS Arty Regt, according to all available evidence, is also composed of 3 bns. When last contacted, the Div was supported by 2 Fortress Mg Bns. In addition to the 2 PGRs, the Pz Regt and the Arty regt, the organic units of the div are; 10 AA Bn, 10 AT Bn, 10 Sig Bn, 10 Rcn Bn, 10 Engr Bn, 10 Assault Gun Bn, 10 Field Repl Bn, 10 Med Bn, Div Services. According to latest information, Div commander is Col (OBERFUEHRER) HARMEL. (VI Corps).

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

a. General Summary:

(1) Northern Front (TF WAHL): At the beginning of the period 3 white parachute flares were observed fired in the vicinity of our front lines, which were immediately followed by enemy TOT on HUNSPACH (1539). Traffic in the ASCHBACH - STUNDWILLER area decreased and arty fire during the night was not as heavy as usual. Enemy patrols were active in the 242nd Inf sector. The enemy staged a small attack of infantry supported by one tank in HATTEN at 0645 hrs, another at 1545 hrs which was stopped by arty, and the final one of the period with tanks and infantry at 2000 hrs that was contained by 2100 hrs. The enemy withdrew slightly in RITTERSHOFFEN to a better defensive position and one 315th Inf patrol killed 8 Germans running out of a burning building and another patrol captured 4 PWs. The 827th TD Bn reported knocking out 3 Mk IV tanks in the HATTEN area today. An early evening patrol of the 313th Inf reported ASCHBACH clear of enemy as it patrolled the town.

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S E C R E T

(2) Eastern Front (TF LINDEN) and Bridgehead Area: Harassing arty fire was reported during the night. Enemy infantry supported by 2 - 3 tanks attacked SESSENHEIM at 0700 hrs and captured the town. Two pillboxes, one located at 179209 and the other at 175204, were also in German hands, by 0750 hrs. The enemy continued to attack in the BOIS DE SESSENHEIM and by the end of the period held most of the woods. SCHIRRHOPFEN (1322) was shelled by SP fire sporadically between 0645 and 0745 hrs. SOUFFLENHEIM received sporadic arty fire during the day. An outpost of the 232nd Inf was contacted by a 7 man enemy patrol at KAUFFENHEIM (2128) and after a fire fight 8 PWs were taken and the other member killed. An arty forward observer reported 4 tanks and much enemy activity in ROESCHWOOG. An estimated 3 companies were reported by the 314th Inf as crossing the river vic 178203 at 1645 hrs. ROHRWILLER was shelled heavily during the day by arty, including 3 oil shells, all duds, which landed at 1100 hrs. The 12th Armd Div reported that 2 ME 109's strafed BISCHWILLER at 1505 hrs.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. PWs evacuated through FM: 59
- b. PWs evacuated through medical channels: 2
- c. Total PWs to date: 21908
- d. 3 enemy tanks destroyed during period. One half-track and one armored car were also knocked out. Total enemy tanks destroyed to date: 132.
- e. Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, PW Enclosure, Inf Regts, HAGUENAU.
- f. VI Corps ISUM as of 181800 hrs - 45th Div: Pressure continued from NE and NW on flanks of 157th Inf. By dug in vic Q817387 after infiltration. Organized defensive line encountered Q835401 to Q835398 and our attack from E. met MG, mortar and AT fire. 103rd Div: Generally quiet except in right half of sector where occasional small arms, mortar and arty fire was reported. Unknown number enemy located at Q87154345 and dug in positions and defenses: located vic CLIMBACH (R0846). 12th Armd Div: Heavy small arms, mortar and AT fire from vic HERRLISHEIM continued. Enemy apparently reinforcing troops by barge movements observed at 1630 hrs vic 152119, 170143 and 1655 hrs at 152170 - 5 to 10 barges seen in each movement.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

- a. To attack on Northern Front with up to regimental strength.
- b. To defend from present positions on Northern Front.
- c. To attack in AUEHHEIM - SESSENHEIM area with up to 2 regiments in strength.
- d. To continue defense of present bridgehead positions.

John J. Dohrmann
DOHRMANN
G-2

DISTRIBUTION:

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S E C R E T

CONSOLIDATED IPW ANNEX TO G-2 REPORT NO. 192

1. Unit Identifications

Unit	PWs	Place	Capture	Date
Co. Wimmer (Co A/33), Bn Hoppe	7	vic KAUFFENHEIM	232 Inf	18 Jan
Trains, 3rd Bn, 20th Para Regt	1	RITTERSHOFFEN	313 Inf	18 Jan
3rd Co, 2nd SS Police Regt	2	HERRLISHEIM	314 Inf	17 Jan
Convalescent Co, 317 Inf, 211 Inf Div (Alsation Deserter, unit in Prussia)	2	S CLEBOURG	222 Inf	18 Jan
2nd Bn Hq, 21st Para Regt	8	SESSENHEIM	232 Inf	17 Jan
5th Co, 21st Para Regt	5	"	"	"
6th Co, 21st Para Regt	16	"	"	"
7th Co, 21st Para Regt	1	"	"	"
15th Co, 21st Para Regt	3	"	"	"
7th Co, 19th Para Regt	14	AUEHHEIM	"	"
TOTAL PWs PROCESSED	59			

(Cont'd)

2. Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition

Co A/33, formerly known as Co Wimmer, Bn Hoppe was virtually destroyed in its first attempt to take STATTMATEN. Co went across the RHINE to be reorganized, and received repl from the 5th Drivers Repl Tng Bn in RASTATT. Co again came to the west side of the RHINE on the 17th of Jan, crossing at 233210 after which the entire company went to ROPPENHEIM. PW states that the entire Bn Hoppe has been reorganized with a strength of approx 250 men divided into three Co's all of which are at the present time in ROPPENHEIM. The 3 Co's of the Bn are A/34, also known as Co Starke, A/33 also known as Co Wimmer and Co Menzel which is probably known as Co A/35. 9 men of Co Wimmer were sent on a patrol from ROPPENHEIM with the mission of determining whether or not LEUTENHEIM was clear of enemy forces. PW states that the patrol lost its way and went to KAUFFENHEIM where, according to PWs, one man was killed and 8 captured. One of the captured men was seriously wounded. PW states that the entire Bn is in ROPPENHEIM and that the mission of their Co was to hold the town.

The 3rd Co, 2nd SS Police Regt crossed the RHINE from SCHERZHEIM on the night of 14/15 Jan with a strength of 120 men. Company went to the town of HERRLISHEIM and took up positions at 125154. PW states that the 4th Co is on their right flank. Co suffered heavy losses in yesterday's attack and medical PW treated 65 wounded from 3rd Co. Personnel of the Co were all over 38 yrs of age and were ready to surrender but were prevented by their First Sergeant who constantly promised that the company was to be relieved. The Co CP in HERRLISHEIM was destroyed and the Co CO was badly wounded or killed. The SS Police units were supported by 3 75mm Assault Guns which were last known to be in position at 12911496. Kitchen and trains of the Bn have not crossed the RHINE and are still located in SCHERZHEIM.

PWs of the Convalescent Co, 317th Inf, 211th Inf Div stated that the Div had been badly mauled on the East Prussian front and was now being reorganized in various towns of WEST PRUSSIA into a Volksgrenadier Division. PWs stated they received furloughs to LANDAU, made their way south through WISSEMBOURG, ROTT and CLEEBOURG to desert to the American forces at 108441. PW states that the German line is thinly held in this sector and that he saw only three German soldiers between BERG ZABERN and the American front lines. PW claims that German line runs from cemetery south of CLEEBOURG (113444) north to river and along river to road at 107451. PW spoke to civilians in WISSEMBOURG who claimed that the bridge in that city was heavily used at night.

PW of the Trains, 3rd Bn, 20th Para Regt states that the 3rd Bn was formed in HOLLAND in Dec with an approx strength of 600 men. 35 belonged to Bn trains, 15 men each to the 4 rifle co's, and approx 40-50 men to Bn HQ. The remainder of the 600 were distributed amongst the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Cos which would give them an approx strength of 115 men each. PW is unfamiliar with the organizational setup of the 4 Co's of the Bn, but says that the entire Bn is committed in the vic of RITTERSHOFFEN - HATTEN. PW was sent out from vic of MOTHERN to RITTERSHOFFEN to pick up a civilian car that was in that town. The car broke down and PW lost his way and wandered into American arms. The entire Bn arrived from HOLLAND vic of GERMERSHEIM approx 8 days ago and that the trains arrived vic MOTHERN on the 12th of Jan. The Bn was committed on 14 Jan and according to PW has been in line since that date.

PWs of the 2nd Bn, 21st Para Regt were reinterrogated but several pertinent questions as to overall objective and possible employment of the 25th PGR Div in conjunction with 19th and 21st Para Regts in a combined attack to join bridgehead vic GAMESHEIM - DRUSENHEIM remained unanswered. Officer PWs knew nothing more of the bridgehead then had been announced over the radio by German stations and knew of no other objective than taking SESSENHEIM and holding it. Engr PWs of the 15th Co, 21st Para Regt, who were attached to the 2nd Bn carried T mines which were to be laid to secure western approach to the town. However it is likely that officers captured would not know of final mission of the attack, and that these initial attacks are merely maneuvering to gain more advantageous jump off points.

3. MORALE

Morale of the PWs from Co Wimmer and 2nd SS Police Regt low. PWs were all older men and entirely dissatisfied with their life at the front. PWs of the 19th and 21st Para Regts were extremely well indoctrinated in "all the good Nazi ideals" and of a good age group. PWs morale in the latter units is exceptionally high and remained high even after capture.

(O-V-122)

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Authority: **ENC 735017**
By: **36** NNA: Date: _____

4. SUPPLY

All Para units were extremely well equipped according to present German army standards. All PWs were equipped with quilted camouflage suits (white inside and colored outside and reversible). MGs carried an average of 2000 rds. per MG and they state that ammo supply is plentiful, especially for small arms weapons. PWs from bridgehead area stated that supply was very poor and irregular. PWs from 2nd SS Police Regt stated that they had not eaten for 4 days and they had only 30 rounds of ammo left per rifle. Supply routes of the 3rd Bn, 20th Para Regt runs from MOTHERN-MUNCHHAUSEN SCHAFFHAUSEN, NIEDERRODERN west along north edge of forest to bridge at 21313408 and then west into HATTEN.

5. Miscellaneous

PWs of Co Wimmer state that they saw 6-8 105mm Hows and 2-88mm guns drawn by half tracks moving through ROPPENHEIM south at approx 1800 hrs last night. One squad of paratroopers (8 men) dressed in white camouflage suits seen yesterday in ROPPENHEIM. PW of Co Wimmer stated that he spoke to Waffen SS men of SS DAS REICH DIV in HAIDLEBERG who stated that a large scale offensive was to be launched to take ALSACE, and that the SS Divs Viking, Das Reich and Hohenstauffen, would participate in the attack.

6. Enemy Installations

Bridge west of NIEDERRODERN at 21313408 is in operation.

Btry of 4-105mm Hows in position south of road at 14654749.

3rd Bn, 20th Para Regt trains (6 trucks - 7 E/D vehicles) at 210379

RBC NEWS AS OF 182400 JAN

WESTERN FRONT: British troops in the vicinity of SITTARD have been engaged in heavy fighting. They took two important villages today. On the north shoulder of the dwindling ARDENNES salient progress has been made towards ST. VITH by American troops driving directly S. They were last placed 4 miles N of the town. On the S shoulder of the salient Third Army troops are reported to have crossed the SAUER RIVER in the vicinity of DIEKIRCH, 15 miles N of LUXEMBOURG CITY. In ALSACE enemy pressure N of the HAGUENAU FOREST has lessened somewhat, but the enemy is now probing other nearby positions, particularly in the vicinity of the bridgehead N of the STRASBOURG.

EASTERN FRONT: The Russians continue to make rapid advances along a 500 km front through POLAND. In the N troops of ROKOSSOVSKIY have pushed on to take AUDLIN, 20 miles NW of WARSAW. In the center ZHUKOV'S troops are driving W below the S bank of the VISTULA and are about 25 miles W of WARSAW. In the S KONEV has increased his threat to LODZ by taking PIOTRKOV. This important city lies almost 30 miles due S of LODZ, the second city of POLAND. To the SW Volkssturm units of UPPER SILESIA are reported by BERLIN to have "received their baptism of fire" but as yet there have been no reports of fighting inside the frontiers of the Reich. In HUNGARY units under MALINOVSKIY have cleared the enemy from PEST where 60,000 PWs have been taken in the last three weeks. Forces of TOLEBUKHIN on the other side of the DANUBE have received a German counterattack between SZAKESFEHERVAR and LAKE BALATON.

AIR: The only reported air activity today was a raid by American bombers on KAISERSLAUTERN, an important rail junction N of the Alsatian frontier of GERMANY.

PACIFIC THEATER: The American drive from LINGAYAN GULF towards MANILA has taken a town 27 miles S of the beachhead. Increasing opposition has been met from Japs on the left flank.

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Authority: DDO 735017
By: JB NAVA Date:

2. Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition

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(O-V-E-R)

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 Authority: *ND 73607*
 By: *SB* NAVA Date:

4. SUPPLY

All Para units were extremely well equipped according to present German army standards. All PWs were equipped with quilted camouflage suits (white inside and colored outside and reversible). MGs carried an average of 2000 rds per MG and they state that ammo supply is plentiful, especially for small arms weapons. PWs from bridgehead area stated that supply was very poor and irregular. PWs from 2nd SS Police Regt stated that they had not eaten for 4 days and they had only 30 rounds of ammo left per rifle. Supply routes of the 3rd Bn, 20th Para Regt runs from MOTHERN-MUNCHHAUSEN SCHAFFHAUSEN, NIEDERRODERN west along north edge of forest to bridge at 21313408 and then west into HATTEN.

5. Miscellaneous

PWs of Co Wimmer state that they saw 6-8 105mm Hows and 2-38mm guns drawn by half tracks moving through ROPPENHEIM south at approx 1800 hrs last night. One squad of paratroopers (8 men) dressed in white camouflage suits seen yesterday in ROPPENHEIM. PW of Co Wimmer stated that he spoke to Waffen SS men of SS DAS REICH DIV in HEIDLEBERG who stated that a large scale offensive was to be launched to take ALSACE, and that the SS Divs Viking, Das Reich and Hohenstauffen, would participate in the attack.

6. Enemy Installations

Bridge west of NIEDERRODERN at 21313408 is in operation.

Btry of 4-105mm Hows in position south of road at 14654749.

3rd Bn, 20th Para Regt trains (6 trucks - 7 H/D vehicles) at 310379

BEC NEWS #6 OF 182400 JAN

WESTERN FRONT: British troops in the vicinity of SITTARD have been engaged in heavy fighting. They took two important villages today. On the north shoulder of the dwindling ARDENNES salient progress has been made towards ST. VITH by American troops driving directly S. They were last placed 4 miles N of the town. On the S shoulder of the salient Third Army troops are reported to have crossed the SAUER RIVER in the vicinity of DIEKIRCH, 15 miles N of LUXEMBOURG CITY. In ALSACE enemy pressure N of the HAGUENAU FOREST has lessened somewhat, but the enemy is now probing other nearby positions, particularly in the vicinity of the bridgehead N of the STRASBOURG.

EASTERN FRONT: The Russians continue to make rapid advances along a 500 km front through POLAND. In the N troops of ROKOSSOVSKIY have pushed on to take MULLIN, 20 miles NW of WARSAW. In the center ZHUKOV'S troops are driving W below the S bank of the VISTULA and are about 25 miles W of WARSAW. In the S KONEV has increased his threat to LODZ by taking PIOTRKOV. This important city lies almost 30 miles due S of LODZ, the second city of POLAND. To the SW Volkssturm units of UPPER SILESIA are reported by BERLIN to have "received their baptism of fire" but as yet there have been no reports of fighting inside the frontiers of the Reich. In HUNGARY units under MALINOVSKIY have cleared the enemy from PEST where 60,000 PWs have been taken in the last three weeks. Forces of TOLBUKHIN on the other side of the DANUBE have received a German counterattack between SZEKESFEHERVAR and LAKE BALATON.

AIR: The only reported air activity today was a raid by American bombers on KAISERSLAUTERN, an important rail junction N of the Alsatian frontier of GERMANY.

PACIFIC THEATER: The American drive from LINGAYAN GULF towards MANILA has taken a town 27 miles S of the beachhead. Increasing opposition has been met from Japs on the left flank.

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Authority: DDO 735017
By: 36 NAVA Date:

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G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 182200 Jan 45
TO : 192000 Jan 45
Hq 79th Inf Div
In the Field
192400 January 1945

No. 193

Maps: No change

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

a. Enemy Front Lines: On Northern Front: CLEEBOURG (1144), INGOLSHEIM (1441), ASCHBACH (1837), STUNDWILLER (1836), BUHL (2035), eastern part of RITTERSHOFFEN (1533), eastern part of HATTEN (1833) and 222305.

On Eastern Front and Bridgehead Area: FORSTFELD (2228), LEUTENHEIM (2127), ROESCHWOG (2125), SESSENHEIM (1822), BOIS DE SESSENHEIM (1720), DRUSENHEIM (1517), 143173, 130168, 085145 and 075125.

b. Units in Contact: Elements of 21st Pz Div and 25th Pz Gr Div; 20th Para Regt, 1st and 2nd Bns of 19th Para Regt and 2nd Bn of 21st Para Regt of 7th Para Div; 1st Bn, 22 SS Pz Gr Regt of 10th SS Pz Div, 1st Bn and Bn SCHINDLER of 937th Regt of 245th VG Div; Battle groups under command of 553rd VG Div.

c. Reserves and Other Forces Capable of Intervention: With the commitment of four of his better type divisions (21st Pz, 25th Pz Gr, 7th Para and 10th SS Pz) there can be no doubt that the enemy has now focused his attention on ALSACE rather than the ARDENNES. The recapture of ALSACE by the enemy would not only be a military victory but a political plum as well since the Germans consider this territory as an integral part of the Third Reich. With such importance placed on this sector it can be assumed that the enemy will reinforce his troops now engaged. Logical candidates for movement to this area are divisions that have disengaged themselves from the former ARDENNES salient. The 11th Pz Div, temporarily located vic TRIER, remains the only complete Panzer division that has not been committed.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

a. General Summary:

(1) Northern Front (TF WAHL): Vehicles using headlights were observed moving from OBERSEEBACH to ASCHBACH to STUNDWILLER during the night. Harassing arty fire continued to fall during the hours of darkness. Some infantry movement was heard in HATTEN at 0100 hrs and again at 0615 hrs, but our arty fire quickly quieted this. The enemy attacked with tanks and infantry in the town at 0800 hrs and the assault was repulsed without loss of ground by 0930 hrs. During this time it was estimated that the Germans used 3000 rounds of mortar, arty and tank fire. The tanks remained active until noon. The enemy remained alert in RITTERSHOFFEN to all of our attempts to advance or patrol. The 312th FA Bn reported knocking out 2 enemy tanks and the 310th FA Bn reported knocking out another. A 242nd Inf outpost vic 200310 with reinforcements dispersed a 50 man patrol at 1500 hrs.

(2) Eastern Front (TF LINDEN) and Bridgehead Area: ROHRWILLER (1217) was attacked from the SW by a battalion of infantry shortly before midnight but were repulsed prior to dawn. The enemy resisted stubbornly in SESSENHEIM and the BOIS DE SESSENHEIM with small arms and tank fire this morning. The enemy probed with some success in the 12th Armd Div sector during the afternoon but at a heavy cost in tanks. The 12th Armd Div reported knocking out 16 enemy tanks, including 2 German operated Shermans, in its right sector and 8 inch howitzers destroyed 3 others west of HERRLSHEIM and DRUSENHEIM and a build-up was apparent during the day. The enemy attacked the Northern part of DRUSENHEIM from the NE, S and SW at 1930 hrs with an estimated two bns of infantry, supported by several tanks. By the end of the period DRUSENHEIM was surrounded and the 2nd Bn, 314th was in the process of fighting its way out. At 1820 hrs a low flying enemy plane dropped one bomb vic HAGUENAU.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- PWs evacuated through PM: 14
- PWs evacuated through medical channels: 1
- Total PWs to date: 21,923.

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(O-V-E-R)

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Authority: DND 735617
By: 36 NMA Date:

S E C R E T

d. 3 enemy tanks destroyed during the period. Total enemy tanks destroyed to date: 135. 5 half-tracks were also destroyed. A PW stated that our TOT on BUHL last night destroyed 14 vehicles, two 75mm guns and 1 mortar.

e. Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, PW Enclosure, Inf Regts, HAGUENAU.

f. The 12th Armd Div reports during current operations vic bridgehead, that a considerable number of American medium tanks have either been destroyed or captured by the enemy. It is believed that the enemy will make every attempt to recondition these tanks using them either with Allied or German markings in an effort to gain surprise and to create confusion among our troops. All units are warned to be on the alert and incidents of this nature will be reported immediately to this headquarters through intelligence channels. (VI Corps)

g. VI Corps ISUM as of 191800 hrs: In 12th Armd zone enemy crossed ZORN CANAL vic 0812 with 10 tanks and inf at 1635 hrs; at 1645 hrs 17 tanks and 200 infantry crossed ZORN vic HERRLISHEIM and moved towards BISCHWILLER; at 1745 hrs 17 tanks and 400 enemy crossed canal vic 0812; at 1800 hrs some armor reported attacking woods vic 0914 with S/A, MG and mortar support.

In 103rd Div Zone enemy continues relatively inactive but our patrol observed 7 man enemy patrol at 005855.

In 45th Div Zone 1 Co of 506th SS Bn identified on Hill 403 (Q835404). In area NE of REIPERTSWEILLER enemy continues to strengthen positions vic (Q825-332) by infiltration. The enemy is aggressive and determined and continues to attack even with small groups usually following exceptionally heavy mortar and arty concentrations. In the bridgehead area, 10th Co, 22nd PGR was identified.

n. Weather Forecast: 20 Jan - Overcast with rain and snow showers in morning and broken low clouds in afternoon. Visibility 1 - 2 miles at dawn, increasing to 5-6 miles by 1100 hrs. Min Temp: 25°

21 Jan: Clear sky at night with increasing low clouds during day. Visibility 6 miles at dawn and 10 miles in afternoon. Min Temp: 22°.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

- To attack on Northern Front with up to regimental strength.
- To defend from present positions on Northern Front.
- To attack from the bridgehead area in divisional strength.
- To attack in AUFENHEIM - SESSENHEIM area with up to 2 regiments in strength.

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G-2 D.E. B

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S E C R E T

CONSOLIDATED IPW ANNEX TO G-2 REPORT NO. 193

1. Unit Identifications

Unit	PWs	Place	Capture	Date
5th Co, 125th Pz Gr Regt	4	S RITTERSHOFFEN	315 Inf	18 Jan
1st Co, BG von LEOWEN	1	HUNSPACH	222 Inf	19 Jan
Co KNOTH, Bn SCHINDLER (Control 937th Inf, 245th Div)	1	128453	"	"
4 Co, 21 Pz Ren, 21 Pz Div	6	OBERRODERN	313 Inf	"
2 Co, 21 Pz Ren, 21 Pz Div	1	"	"	"

2. Deserter PWs in Civilian Clothes Apprehended by 7yth CIC Detachment

Unit	PWs	Last Unit Location at	Date
2nd Co, 116 Pz Ren Bn, 116 Pz Div	1	ERFELD (RUHR)	1 Dec
TOTAL PWS PROCESSED	14		

3. Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition

Einheit Knoth, Bn SCHINDLER (also known as 1st Co), under control of 937th Inf, 245th Div. Co strength 108 men, 12 LMGs in position 800 yds SW of INGOLSHHEIM vic 143412. 2nd Co also in area. PW saw 3 panthers and 8-10 Howitzers on road from BERG ZABERN and WISSELBOUEG, headed south on night of 16 Jan.

Battle Group Leowen now supposedly under tactical control of an unidentified SS Bn, the latter having supposedly arrived this sector on about 14 Jan. Strength of unit approx 60-80 men. 6 EM on outpost RR Sta Hunsbach. One squad of infan-

(Cont'd)

try from B.G. von Leowen, at western outskirts of ASCHBACH vic 179373. B.G. is divided into 4 platoons of 18-20 men and 3 HMGs each.

4th Co, 21st Pz Rcn, 21st Pz Div: 21st Pz Rcn Bn was on line north of RITTERSHOFFEN. PW claimed entire Bn has been relieved an SS Armored Div or SS Pz Gr Div. 21st Pz Rcn Bn:

1st, 2nd and 3rd Cos are scout car co's, with 18-20 scout cars each and also 80-100 men each. 4th Co, is a Hvy Co - 3 Plats, 100 men.

1-Engr Plat - 10 Scout Cars

2-AT Plat - 3-75mm AT guns

3-Cannon Plat - 3 short, 75mm Hows mounted in half-tracks.

PWs in the process of relief, wandered into our lines and were captured. PWs saw 15 damaged tanks being moved out of town and 5 in the town burned out. PW talked to paratroopers who claimed their mission in HATTEN and RITTERSHOFFEN was merely defensive.

2nd Co, 21st Pz Rcn, according to PW, left RITTERSHOFFEN and is now in NIEDERR-ODEERN. PW captured was evacuating wounded in a half track with PWs of the 4th Co. Rumor has it that the entire 21st Pz Div is to be relieved and reconstituted. Both companies reported heavy casualties in men and materiel from arty fire.

The 5th Co, 125th Pz Gr Regt has lost 60-70 men vic HATTEN - RITTERSHOFFEN and has been combined with the 6th Co. PW states that the total strength of the two combined companies is now approx 50-60 men. 2nd Bn, 125th Pz Gr Regt strength estimated at 115 men all defending the southeastern part of the town of RITTERSHOFFEN. PW states that they are to be supported by paratroopers and Waffen SS. PW has suffered approx 60-70% losses and believes losses are similar in the other Bn of the regt.

The 14th AD captured prisoners from the 3rd Co, 35th Pz Gr Regt during the period. PW states that the 3rd Co has an approx strength of 75 men and for the past 6 days has been protecting the south flank of HATTEN. 3rd Co, 125th Pz Gr Regt is in position at 17903312. PW believes the entire Bn is in a defensive position there.

PWs of the 1st Co, 22nd SS PGR, 10 SS Div Frundsberg were captured by the 12th AD vic ROHRWILLER. PWs stated that the entire 1st Bn, 22nd SS PGR attacked direction ROHRWILLER with a mission of securing a bridgehead across the ZORN RIVER there to pave the way for a later armored attack. The 1st Bn, 22nd PGR crossed the RHINE RIVER vic of FRIESTATT on the 16th of Jan and remained in the woods until 18 Jan they then advanced on ROHRWILLER through HERNLISHEIM. PWs estimate that at least the 1st and 2nd Bns 22 PGR were across the RHINE. Last known location of the 3rd Bn was in the towns of MUSSBACH and GIMELTINGEN where they were billeted on 18 Jan. PW states that the mission of the Div is to advance and take objective approx 18 km from the RHINE RIVER after which time they were to be relieved by a Volksgrenadier Div in the 240 series. The 1st Bn, 22nd PGR is in position east of ROHRWILLER with the 2nd co of the south flank, the 3rd Co in the center and the 1st Co on the north flank. The 1st Co has an approx strength of 100 men divided into three platoons of which two platoons are rifle platoons and the third platoon is a HMG platoon having 3 HMGs. The 4th Co is a heavy company with 4-75mm AT guns and approx 6-80mm mortars. The Bn combat strength is approx 450 men. The 1st Bn, 22nd SS PGR had radio communication with a para unit on the north flank. PW says there are two regiments in the Div each regt having 3 Bns. All bns are approx 400-500 men strong, excluding bn trains and supply units. All PWs agreed that the division has a total of approx 90 tanks which are almost equally divided amongst Mark V and Mark VII types. PWs disagreed on whether or not these tanks were organized into two or three Bns.

PW of the 2nd Co, 116th Pz Bn, was an Alsatian deserter who was last with his unit in KREFELD (RUHR) on 1 Dec. PW states that the Division was being reorganized at the time he deserted.

4. Morale

Morale of the PWs of the 125th Pz Gr Regt was fair. Morale of SS troops good. PWs feel they are about to spring a trap on the Americans in ALSACE.

5. Miscellaneous

One PW of the 125th Pz Gr Regt states that there are rumors of being relieved by a Waffen SS Div. The 1st Bn of the 22nd SS Pz Gr Regt assembled and crossed the Rhine in the vic of FRIESTATT. PW states that FRIESTATT is the focal point of the Divs operation and would make a good air target.

(O-V-E-R)

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Authority: 235017
By: 36 NAVA: Dajc

6. Enemy Installations

CP 5th Co, 125th Pz Gr Regt bldg at curve in road at 162335
 CP 2nd Bn, 125th Pz Gr Regt at 16053375
 Trains and kitchen 2nd Bn, 125th Pz Gr at SIEGEN 225399
 50 tanks of 10th SS Div in HELMINGEN (172119) and PREISTATT (1408) (16 Jan)
 CP 1st Bn, 22nd Pz Gr in SCHERZHEIM 16 Jan.
 245th Div CP in ELENBACH at 32905095.
 CP Co Knoch at 14404185.

7. Supply

Route of supply to RITTERSHOFFEN goes through open fields north of WATTEN to road at 185342, then to EUHL and to NIEDERMODERN.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE ITEM

Mine Warning Device: SPERRENHORCHGERAT 42 Twelfth Army Group has reported documentary and PW descriptions of an acoustical warning device used to guard electrically controlled minefields. Device is known as SPERRENHORCHGERAT 42. It is said to have effective radius of 500-1000 meters and to make visual control unnecessary. Edge Listening Platoon installs devices 1000 meters apart along front and controls them. Recent improvement incorporates radio control of mine fields, obviating need for electrical cables and affording opportunity to control minefields arranged in depth. Samples of the device are desired by Technical Intelligence branch of Supreme Headquarters. (TUSA)

Stock Mine: PW interrogated by 2942d US Enemy Technical Intelligence Team reported German Stock-mine, containing 2 or 3 Bonrpatrones. Mine is similar in other respects to single-Bonrpatrone Stock Mine. PW stated new mine about 3 1/3 Ft in length and used in swampy land, or ground covered with snow. Frequently set in ground in hilly sections, where soldiers climbing hills and looking for objects to hold onto, would pull on Stock-mine, activating pull igniter. PW stated any pull type igniter could be used. Mine cannot be easily detected by a mine detector. PW also reported hearing of a mine that looked like S-mine 35, made of bakelite, and of a pull and tension release igniter of bakelite. (TUSA)

RBC NEWSCAST AS OF 192400

WESTERN FRONT: The British are continuing to make gains along the ROERMOND-SITTARD ROAD. At one point they have advanced 3 kilometers beyond a village taken yesterday. To the south, American troops are nearing ST VITH from the north, now being only 4 miles from the city. Progress is also being made along the HOUFALIZE - ST VITH highway. In LUXEMBOURG Third Army troops have cleared DIEKIRCH after yesterday's surprise crossing of the SAUER RIVER. In ALSACE enemy troops have broken out of their bridgehead N of STRASBOURG and have linked up with other units facing American MAINOT LINE positions N of the HAGUENAU FOREST.

EASTERN FRONT: A new offensive has been started under CHERNYAKOVSKIY against EAST PRUSSIA. On a 60 km front gains up to 45 km have been made. The Russians are approaching INSTERBURG and TILSET, the latter now being 16 km away. N of WARSAW units of ROSSOVSKIY have taken MAWA and DZIALDOVO, the latter place being 5 km from the southern frontier of EAST PRUSSIA. The Russians have finally announced the capture by KONEV of CRACOW which the Germans say they evacuated yesterday. A new offensive has been opened in southern POLAND under PETROV. Gains of 50 kms on an 80 km front have been made along the northern foothills of the CARPATHIANS and VASTO has been taken. In HUNGARY more progress has been made in the clearing of BUDAPEST.

PACIFIC THEATER: On LUZON American troops are now 60 miles inland on the road to MANILA. On the left flank heavy fighting is reported from near ROSARIO where several counterattacks have been repulsed. Targets on the main Jap island of HONSHU have been bombed by B-29's. In BURMA British troops are now about 30 miles from MANDALAY.

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Authority: 735017
 By: SB NARA Date:

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 192200 Jan 45
 TO: 202200 Jan 45
 Hq 79th Inf Div
 In the Field
 202400 January 1945

No. 194

MAPS: No Change.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy Front Lines: CLEEBOURG (1144), INGOLSHEIM (1441), ASCHBACH (1837), STUNDWILLER (1836), BUHL (2035), eastern part of RITTERSHOFFEN (1533), eastern part of HATTEN (1833), 222305, FORSTFELD (2228), LEUTENHEIM (2127), ROESCHWOOG (2125), SESSENHEIM (1822), BOIS DE SESSENHEIM (1720), DRUSENHEIM (1517), 143173, 30168, 085145 and 075125.

b. Units in Contact: Elements of 21st Pz Div and 25th Pz Gr Div; 20th Para Regt, 1st and 2nd Bn's of 19th Para Regt and 2nd Bn of 21st Para Regt of 7th Para Div; elements of 21st and 22nd Pz Gr Regt's of 10th SS Pz Div; 1st Bn and Bn SCHINDLER of 937th Regt of 245th VG Div; Battle groups under command of 553rd VG Div.

c. Reserves and Other Forces Capable of Intervention: The 11th Pz Div can be eliminated from the list of uncontacted units due to its employment in the XX US Corps sector.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD.

a. General Summary: There was little traffic reported in the HATTEN - RITTERSHOFFEN area after midnight. An enemy patrol was contacted vic 185323 at 0500 hrs and 3 PWs were taken while the remainder were driven off. The 22nd Inf reported flare activity during the night. After being held up in DRUSENHEIM by the 2nd Bn, 314th Inf, the enemy was not able to make further progress during the night. Some small arms fire was received from the vicinity of SESSENHEIM until 0430 hrs and the 3rd Bn, 314th Inf received moderate harassing arty fire. HATTEN and RITTERSHOFFEN remained relatively quiet during the day. Some enemy pressure was reported in the southern part of the BOIS DE RUNTZENHEIM (1823) at 1000 hrs but no attack developed. During the morning tracked vehicles were heard in the SESSENHEIM area and some small arms fire was reported in DRUSENHEIM. Enemy were reported dug in vic 13751825 and 190329. The 411th Inf and the 314th Inf received heavy arty fire between 1300 and 1500 hrs but no aggressiveness followed. In the afternoon German tank and infantry activity was reported in DRUSENHEIM and tracked vehicle movement was heard in the BOIS DE SESSENHEIM. Two half-tracks were observed vic 131179.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. PWs evacuated through PM: 8

b. Total PWs to date: 21,931

c. Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, PW Enclosure, Inf Regt's and SCHWIND-MATZHEIM.

d. No enemy tanks destroyed during period.

e. Friendly jet-propelled (Meteor) aircraft are to begin operations over EUROPE 20 January bearing camouflage coloring and standard day fighter markings. Rigid censorship over press and mail will be exercised and every effort will be made to insure that no information regarding the aircraft reaches the enemy.

f. The S-2, 411th Inf, reported that 2 men of Co "B", 410th Inf were surprised in their foxholes vic R1520 by 2 German soldiers dressed in American uniforms. The enemy stripped the Americans to their underwear and gave all the clothing to 2 other enemy dressed in German uniforms. The American soldiers were blindfolded and told not to move or they would be shot while the last 2 Germans changed into the American uniforms. The 4 enemy then took off toward the Div's left flank. The American soldiers returned to their CP without being further molested by the Germans. All units are warned that the enemy made use of American uniforms in the ARDENNES attack and will probably attempt to do the same in this sector.

g. Weather forecast - Jan 21: Broken low clouds after 0930 hrs with haze and light fog. Visibility 6-8 miles after 0930 hrs. Min temp: 25 degrees.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

a. To probe with patrols to determine our new positions.

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5. DISTRIBUTION:

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Authority: ND 735017
 By: SB NARA Date:

1. Unit Identification:

Unit	PWs	Place	Captured by	Date
3rd Co, 35th Pz Gr Regt, 25th PG Div	3	165325	242nd Inf	19 Jan

2. Deserter PWs in Civilian Clothes Apprehended by 79th CIC Det:

Unit	PWs	Last Unit Location	Date
8th Co, 235th Inf (?), 315th Inf Div	1	ITALY	30 Aug
SS Assault Gun Repl Tng Bn	1	GLUMM, CZECHOSLOVAKIA	26 Nov
7th Co, 17th Inf (?), 73rd Inf Div	1	MISKOLC, HUNGARY	21 Nov
97th Ren Bn, 97th Inf Div	1	DNIEPER Bend	24 Apr
38th Mtn Regt, 3rd Mtn Div	1	BUDAPEST	24 Sep
Total PWs processed	8		

3. Unit Strength, Organization and Disposition:

PWs of 3rd Co, 35th Pz Gr Regt were out on patrol to 165325 to determine our strength, disposition and intentions in that area. PW states the 1st Bn, 35th Pz Gr Regt was virtually destroyed in its initial attack on HATTEN on 9 Jan and only had 25 men left on 10 Jan. Bn received approx 30 repl who were formed into the 3rd Co. Bn now consists of 2nd and 3rd Co's with a combined strength of approx 55-60 men. 2nd Co is in position at RR Sta HATTEN (178331) and 3rd Co is in position at 178328. There are also elements of 20th Para Regt which PWs say have suffered heavy losses. PW states Para units in RITTERSHOFFEN and HATTEN are to be relieved by a Waffen-SS unit. The 3rd Bn, 35th Pz Gr Regt is now being reorganized at BERGALBERN, vic of FIRMASENS. PW states enemy units have salvaged 1 or 2 of our knocked out tanks in vic of cemetery S of RITTERSHOFFEN.

PWs in civilian clothes apprehended by 79th CIC Det are all Alsatian deserters from the German army. They were last with units on dates and at places indicated above.

4. Morale: Good.

5. Supply: Supply situation generally good. Hot food served almost every evening. Ammo supply adequate.

6. Miscellaneous: Relief of Para units in HATTEN and RITTERSHOFFEN was to be effected at 192200 Jan. PWs did not know what SS unit was to relieve the Para units. Persistent rumors of relief in HATTEN - RITTERSHOFFEN sector have been noticed.

7. Enemy Installations: 75mm AT gun at 17963316
2nd Co, 35th Pz Gr Regt at 17963331
CP, 1st Bn, 35th Pz Gr Regt at 18483340
Rd 16103288 - 16103230 to be mined evening of 20 Jan.

BEC NEWS AS OF 202400 JAN

WESTERN FRONT: The British drive to reach the lower ROER RIVER has made more progress NE of SITTARD. The First Army continues to close in on ST. VITH. The enemy withdrawal from the old ARDENNES salient has been hastened by Third Army gains which netted 3 miles beyond DIEKIRCH and placed American units 3 miles from VIANDEN. N of STRASBURG enemy gains have been made, but the report that these troops have linked up with other enemy units facing the MAGINOT LINE further N has not yet been confirmed. In S ALSACE the French attacked at dawn today on a 25 mile front between the VOSGES and MULHOUSE. 3 1/2 mile gains have been made towards COLMAR.

EASTERN FRONT: Troops under CHERNYAKOVSKY advancing into EAST PRUSSIA today took ELST and other fortified positions. They are now 10 miles from INSTERBURG and less than 50 miles from KOENIGSBURG. In N POLAND troops under KOKOSOVSKY have broadened their front and BERLIN reports that some of the Russian units are now fighting in EAST PRUSSIA as they advance up the WARSAW - DANZIG RR. In central POLAND troops under ZHUKOV have taken KOLA, 100 miles W of WARSAW at the junction of the VISTULA and BRAGA RIVERS. They are 75 miles from POZNAN and 215 miles from BERLIN. In S POLAND troops under KONEV have made further gains beyond CZESTOCHOWA and there are unconfirmed reports that they are fighting inside German SILESIA. Advancing along the foothills of the CARPATHIANS troops under PETROV have advanced further into Polish SILESIA. On their left flank the Russians have gained in CZECHOSLOVAKIA where KOSICE was occupied today.

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Authority: WFO 735017
By: 36 NAVA Date:

SECRET

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 202200 Jan 45
TO : 212200 Jan 45
Hq 79th Inf Div
In the Field
212400 January 1945

NO: 195

Maps: No change

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

- a. Enemy Front Lines: Enemy was reported east of BISCHWILLER (0918) and CAMP DE OBERHOFFEN (0821).
b. Units in Contact: The 10th SS Pz Div remained active on our right flank.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

- a. General Summary: The enemy made a slight attack against the OPL of the 222nd Inf early in the period but remained quiet after the line had been restored. The Div disengaged itself successfully from the enemy during the night. No follow-up was apparent in the HAGUENAU FOREST during the day. One unidentified cub plane was reported over HAGUENAU in the morning and it flew away when approached by one of our cub planes. An air OP reported a small number of tanks and infantry vic 103199 and 102203 at 1630 hrs plus 8 half tracks vic 138205. Shortly after dark the OPL of the 314th Inf vic CAMP DE OBERHOFFEN was driven in and the regiment was receiving tank fire.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. PWs evacuated through PM: 2
b. PWs evacuated through medical channels: 2
c. Total PWs to date: 21,935
d. Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, PW Enclosure, Inf Regts and SCHWIND-RATZHEIM.
e. No enemy tanks destroyed during period.
f. VI Corps ISUM as of 211800 hrs: In 36th Div sector: During afternoon 20 tanks were reported operating to the Division front 2 of which were destroyed, 1 probably destroyed and 2 hit. Considerable activity was reported in woods Rull and at about 1540 hrs our arty fired upon a group of 30-40 enemy at R96154. 108 PWs were taken from the 21st PGR and 22nd PGR. One PW stated that small enemy groups are attempting to find weak spots in our defense and if found the entire 10 SS Pz Div and a VG would attempt to drive through. No enemy trucks reported.
103rd Inf Div Sector: No enemy contact in Div zone. 2 rounds arty fell in MENCHHOFFEN (08329).
45th Inf Div Sector: Light scattered arty fire in W and central parts of sector. Enemy patrol observed at 771390, of 15-20 men, scattered by our mortar fire at 1200 hrs. 5-6 rounds SP fire fell on INGWILLER at 1225 hrs and 1425 hrs.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

- a. To probe with patrols to determine our new positions.
b. To make reconnaissance in force.

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DISTRIBUTION:

Same

SECRET

(O-V-E-R)

1. Units Identified

Unit	PWs	Place	Captured	Date
2nd Co, 125 Pz Rcn Bn, 25 PG Div	2	HAGUENAU	Civil Affairs	21 Jan
TOTAL PWS PROCESSED	2			

2. Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition

PWs captured were Alsatian deserters in civilian clothes. PWs deserted from CR 225319 at 0730 hrs on 21 Jan. PWs stated that the beleaguered American forces to be in immediate vicinity, and that the Germans were not aware of the establishment of a new MLR. PWs state that the company has suffered heavy losses since original commitment, due to patrol losses, and that the present company strength is now approx 18-25 men. The 1st Co, 125th Pz Rcn Bn is in position along road from 225319 to NIEDEPRODERN. PWs have never heard of the 25th PGD being relieved or that there are Para or SS units in that sector.

3. Enemy Installations

4 batteries of Arty vic of 237299.

*** **

ANALYSIS OF INTERROGATION METHODS

Four average American soldiers, all Privates First Class, selected at random from 3 different rifle companies, were taken from front line positions and subjected to a complete and detailed interrogation in the same manner as enemy personnel are questioned. The object of the experiment was to determine the extent of the average front line soldier's knowledge of his unit, its strength, composition, weapons, movements, personalities and the like, so as to evaluate better the enemy PW's statements concerning these matters. The interrogation was in no way connected with security, and the soldiers were told to answer the questions as accurately and completely as possible. In each instance, the findings were substantially the same, although the number was obviously not sufficiently large to make for a comprehensive survey.

Several points were brought out as a result of this experiment. Locations of small installations were generally inaccurate, the average error being 500 yds, a sufficiently great variation to render artillery fire on targets selected on their basis ineffective unless a very wide area is covered and a large amount of ammunition expended. In this regard, however, it should be noted that aerial photographs, which would doubtlessly have increased the accuracy of pinpoint locations were not used in the interrogation.

Unit strengths as given by the men were reasonably accurate, variations ranging from 1% to 11%. Most important, however, is the fact that the soldiers showed themselves well informed, knew our general intentions and plans and had information enough to give a good picture of what our intentions actually are.

While it was evident that this interrogation was conducted under ideal circumstances in that the interrogators were friendly and the soldiers not under pressure, it is nevertheless clear that information of the aforementioned type can be frequently developed through general conversation and subtle questioning by a skilled interrogator. Continued training is therefore manifestly necessary to emphasize to all troops the importance and necessity of refraining, if captured, from what may appear to be a friendly discussion with enemy personnel.

The attention of commanders and intelligence officers is invited to the respective lessons pointed out by this experiment. (30th Div)

BEC NEWSCAST AS OF 212400.

WESTERN FRONT: The British are making slow progress against very stiff German resistance west of the ROER RIVER. American First Army Troops are making very slow progress against very heavy resistance in their attempt to take ST VITH, and are 4 miles away. In ALSACE the Germans are making probing attacks in the area N of STRASBOURG. In the Colmar pocket the First French Army is making steady gains in their drive north from MULHOUSE.

EASTERN FRONT: The Russians have captured TANNENBERG, scene of their greatest defeat in the last war. They are also within 75 miles of DANZIG and KONIGSBERG, and are 20 miles deep, in EAST PRUSSIA on a 50 mile front. In SILEZIA the German city of Breslau is a bare 1 mile away from the nearest Russian spearhead. The Red Army has a total of 200 miles of front line in German territory.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: DDO 736017
By: JB NNA: Date:

S-E-C-R-E-T

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 212200 Jan 45
TO : 222200 Jan 45
Hq 79th Inf Div
In the Field
222400 January 1945

No. 196

MAFB: No Change.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD.

a. Enemy Front Lines: 011211 - 041249 - 055245 - 068240 - 080215 - 095204 - 099194.

b. Units in Contact: The 10th SS Pz Div remains active on our right flank and elements of the 21st Pz Div are active in N HAGUENAU.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD.

a. General Summary: During the night enemy infantry and tanks were heard in the CAMP DE OBERHOFFEN (0821) area and KALTENHOUSE (0721) received some tank fire. WESTERUCH (0317) was shelled from 0800 to 0930 hrs. At noon indications of enemy buildup NE of BISCHWILLER (0918) became apparent as the enemy began to move infantry, tanks, horse-drawn artillery and AT guns into the vicinity of OBERHOFFEN (0919), OBERHOFFEN SUR MODER (0920), CAMP DE OBERHOFFEN and the E and S edges of the BOIS DE OBERHOFFEN (0921). This buildup was continuous throughout the afternoon and evening. The enemy carried on extensive patrolling on the N, NW, and E sides of HAGUENAU (0424). One enemy tank at 043248 placed harassing fire on bridge site at 041247 and into N part of town. A second enemy tank was sited at 056246. No enemy were observed S of LERTZWILLER (9629) - HAGUENAU road in 222nd Inf sector. Four enemy reconnaissance vehicles painted white were reported at 010308 at 1500 hrs and four in the vicinity of 022295 at 1550 hrs. At 1700 hrs an arty air OP reported an undetermined number of tanks and infantry in vicinity of 050246. Some arty, mortar and direct fire was received in 313th Inf sector. At 1745 hrs an outpost of 242nd Inf engaged in fire fight with enemy patrol at 068240. Enemy activity was reported in HUNDSHOF (0326) and at 2125 hrs a high velocity weapon was reported firing from vicinity of 024263 to 032248.

3. MISCELLANEOUS.

a. PWs evacuated through Pm: 2

b. Total Pms to date: 21,937

c. Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, PW Enclosure, Inf Regt's and SCHWIND-RATZHEIM.

d. No enemy tanks destroyed during period.

e. VI Corps ISUMs as of 221800 hrs: 103rd Div: Strong enemy movement N and NW zone during afternoon observed by patrols and air OPs. Reconnaissance patrol sighted troops in black uniforms in ZINSWILLER. 6 armd cars observed moving into GUNDERSHOF-FEN from E at 1615. At 1700 air OP reported column including approx 200 vehicles preceded by infantry moving on ZINSWILLER. No artillery reported during afternoon.

45th Div: Enemy activity in forward areas continued light. Estimated 15 enemy reported digging in vic 816389 at 1540. Combat patrol engaged estimated enemy platoon vic 808365. Arty and mortar fire very scattered against forward elements.

36th Div: Enemy was active and at the close of the period 25 tanks were reported moving slowly W vic 113132. Enemy infantry of undetermined number were dispersed at 102157 by arty fire after reported forming for attack at 1515.

f. Weather forecast for 23 Jan: Partly cloudy at dawn, increasing cloudiness throughout the day with few scattered snow showers over the VOSGES MTS. In the afternoon visibility 6-10 miles lowering to 2-3 miles in snow showers. Sky clear after sunset. Wind: NW, 8 MPH. Min temp: 26 degrees.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES.

a. To make reconnaissance in force.

b. To attack in regimental strength with tank support.

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DOHRMANN, *new*
G-2

DISTRIBUTION:

Same

S-E-C-R-E-T

(U-V-E-11)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: *WFO 236017*
By: *36* NAVA: Date: *3/6*

CONSOLIDATED IPW ANNEX TO G-2 REPORT NO. 196

1. Deserter PWs in Civilian Clothes Apprehended by 79th CIC Det:

Unit	PWs	Last Location	Date
212th Fusilier Bn, 212th Inf Div	1	VITEBSK	22 Jul
492nd Inf Repl Tng Bn	1	MAHLENBAD	18 Nov
Total PWs processed	2		

2. PW of 212th Fus Bn was last with his unit at VITEBSK on 22 Jul when he was wounded. He was sent to a hospital in GERMANY, received a furlough and deserted. PW of 492nd Inf Repl Tng Bn was last with his unit at MAHLENBAD on 18 Nov and deserted on that date to his home in HAGUENAU. Both PWs were Alsatian deserters from the German Army apprehended by 79th CIC Det in HAGUENAU.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE ITEMS

1. Paragraph 2 of a directive issued by the 13 Para Regt on 10 Jan at 2015 hours reads as follows:

"It is imperative that steps be taken to ascertain whether or not the 90th American Inf Div has been committed. Special attention must be given to the numbers 357, 358, 359, 343, 344, 345, 915 and 315. Prisoners identified with these numbers will be immediately taken to the Regt Section I a." (G-3) (VII Corps)

2. Delay Candles:

This device composed of a wax candle, match, time fuse and flare cartridge is used for the destruction of shelters or buildings after evacuation by the enemy. The candle burns down to the match which is inserted horizontally in the candle. The match lights the time fuse, which in turn fires the igniter, setting off the flare which sets the house on fire. A candle 25mm in diameter will burn at the rate of approx 1 1/2 cm (approx 1/2 in) per hour. (See: XX Corps) (VII Corps)

3. On 15 Jan 3 Germans in American uniforms came up to one of the outposts of G Co, 329th Inf and, being challenged, gave the correct password. The alert sentry, however, was suspicious and asked what outfit they were from, to which they replied "B Co". B Co not being in that vicinity they were asked their regimental number, to which they replied "38th Inf". Then the fireworks started. The men escaped although they may have been wounded. They did not get past the outpost. (See: 83rd Inf Div) (VII Corps)

4. Infra-Red Lamps on Enemy Vehicles:

Higher Hqs request troops to be on the look-out for enemy tanks and trucks equipped with infra-red lamps which enable them to see objects at night without throwing a visible ray of light. The exact nature of this equipment and its range are unknown but it is believed that the vehicles equipped with these lamps have the following bumper marking: "250/___/uHu". Specific information is desired on the filter used by the enemy to observe the light beam. Knowledge of the type of filter used will enable us to effect counter measures in detecting vehicles equipped with the lights. All pertinent information should be forwarded to G-2 without delay. (FUSA Enemy Equipment Intell Service) (VII Corps)

5. High Command, Royal Norwegian Forces, reports as of 4 Jan that at least five divisions, 169, 163, 210, 230 Inf Divs and 2 Mtn Div are now in transit on the stretch from ALTA in Northern NORWAY to DENMARK and their present location is not definitely known. In addition, 8 Mtn Div, at present in TROMS, may soon be moving Southwards. (80th Inf Div)

BBC NEWS AS OF 222400 JAN

WESTERN FRONT: Gains have been reported by the British from SITTARD, and American forces have made further progress near ST. VITH. In this area the XIX TAC caught approx 3000 tanks and vehicles jammed on the roads, and knocked out or damaged half of these. In S ALSACE the French made 6 mile gains towards COLMAR.

EASTERN FRONT: In eastern EAST PRUSSIA the Russians took INSTERBURG and in SW EAST PRUSSIA they took ALLENSTEIN and two other important rail junctions. With the capture of GNIEZNO they are now 165 miles from BERLIN, and 30 miles from POZNAN. In S POLAND and SILESIA troops under KONEV made 20 miles and are now 35 miles from BRISLAW. In BUDAPEST 20 more blocks were taken, but SW of SZEKESFEHARVARI the Red Army was forced back a little by strong enemy attacks.

SECRET

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 222200 Jan 45
TO : 232200 Jan 45
Hq 79th Inf Div
In the Field
232400 January 1945

No. 197

Maps: No change

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

- a. Enemy Front Lines: The enemy was observed or contacted North of the MODER RIVER from Q942274 to RC98192.
- b. Units in Contact: During the period the 3rd Co, 103rd VG Regt of the 47th VG Div and the 13th Security Bn were identified.
- c. Reserves and Other Forces Capable of Intervention: With the arrival of the 47th VG Div it has become even more apparent that the enemy has decided to make his main effort on the Western Front in ALSACE. The 47th VG Div had been engaged in the DUREN sector, but started its movement South at the beginning of the New Year. The 36th Inf Div has shifted Eastward and was identified in the 103rd Div zone today. The 245th VG Div is believed to be available in immediate reserve and our recent opponents - the 21st Pz Div, 25th Pz Gr Div, 7th Para Div and 10th SS Pz Div - are still around.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

- a. General Summary: Enemy patrols were active during the night in all regimental sectors and several casualties were inflicted by our arty and small arms fire. Throughout the day the enemy continued to close on the MODER RIVER with considerable vehicular and foot movement observed, particularly in the OBERHOFFEN area. Included in the vehicles observed were American jeeps, trucks, command cars and half tracks. Tanks and infantry were engaged by our arty and small arms shortly after dawn vic 01652568 and 007250. An estimated company of infantry was taken under arty fire which caused dispersion vic 042253 at 1030 hrs. Tac/R reported much infantry plus tanks and motor drawn arty north of the HAGUENAU FOREST prior to noon. During the afternoon enemy patrols were engaged at 970212, 004254 and 971280. 8 enemy were reported digging in vic 995259 at 1500 hrs. 4 tanks were reported vic CAMP DE OBERHOFFEN (0821) at 1723 hrs. Enemy planes bombed and strafed WEITBRUCH several times during the morning while KALTENHOUSE (0721), 072211, 074211, 07453307 and 07663956 were bombed in the afternoon.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. PWs evacuated through PM: 1
- b. PWs evacuated through medical channels: 1
- c. Total PWs to date: 21,939
- d. Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, PW Enclosure, Inf Regts and SCHWIND-RATZHEIM.
- e. No enemy tanks destroyed during period.
- f. VI Corps ISUM as of 231800: 36th Div sector: Ey ground activity slight except for est 40 man atk against outpost vic 088166 in midafternoon which was broken up by our troops by 1650 hrs. Arty light, in sector, air activity continued.
- 45th Div sector: Ey vic REIPERTSWILLER and N of SAEGMUHL more active during period, generally quiet in remainder of sector. Road vic 0788379 interdicted throughout period, arty and mortar fire light in rest of zone. Bodies identify 1st Co, 476th Regt vic REIPERTSWILLER and 1st Bn Hq, 476th VG Regt vic 0818373.
- 103rd Div sector: Ey buildup on Div front continued throughout period. 88 cal arty reported received PFAFFENHOFFEN.
6. Weather Report: 24 Jan: broken to overcast low clouds throughout period, intermittent light snow showers. Visibility 1-3 miles at dawn, improving to 2-5 miles by 1100. Min Temp: 24°.
- 25 Jan: Clear at dawn, increasing low clouds throughout period. Visibility 6-10 miles. Wind NW 12 mph, Min Temp 27°.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

- a. To make reconnaissance in force.
- b. To attack in regimental strength with tank support.

DISTRIBUTION:

Same

SECRET

(O V E R)

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DOHRMANN DEB
G-2

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: DND 73607
By: 36 NARA Date: _____

1. Unit Identifications

Unit	PWs	Place	Captured	Date
3rd Co, 103rd VG R, 47 VG Div	1	971280	222nd Infantry	23 Jan

2. Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition

3rd Co, 103rd VGR has suffered heavy losses both in DUREN and RITTERSHOFFEN areas. Present strength estimated at 45 men. The Co is organized into 2 plato or 3 squads each. Each squad has strength of 7 men. Weapons of Co are 5 LMGs, 6 Machine pistols and rifles. Total Strength of Bn estimated at 150-200 men. PW states that Co strength of Regt are generally 40-50 men. The Regt has 2 bns. Regt strength est at 450-475 men. Co's have only 1 officer. PW captured was out on patrol with 1 officer and 9 other PWs. PW states that the mission of the patrol was to find billets for the 103rd VGR in HAGUENAU, since the 104th VGR was to have attacked and taken HAGUENAU this morning. Patrol was destroyed by American MG fire. PW states that 104th VGR has a strength equal to 103rd VGR. Patrol started from ESCHBACH, where the entire regt was billeted, waiting to move after results of patrol were in.

3. Morale

Morale fair. PW states that morale has been lowered considerably since the recent German stalemates and setbacks. PW also attributes lowered morale to the fact that his company is mostly in the older age groups. In the 3rd Co, there are 8-10 men of non-Germanic extraction, 3-5 between 19 and 23 and the remainder between 30-40.

4. Supply

Food supply poor. While unit was in RITTERSHOFFEN they received only one meal a day which consisted of soup made of "Water, potatoes and dried peas." No food was received last night. Ammo supply is adequate, 60 rds per rifle and 600 rds per MG were issued. No winter equipment has been issued. PWs have not received heavy underwear or heavy socks or gloves. PW states that they were given clean linen before they left from RITTERSHOFFEN so they would not have to carry too much equipment.

5. Miscellaneous

The 47th VG Div was relieved vic DUREN on 1 Jan 45 by an unidentified Waffen SS unit. The 103rd and 104th VG Regts then marched for 3 days through COLOGNE to a small town 30 km from COLOGNE. There they boarded a RR train and traveled 5 nights to vic of LANDAU. Only one and two track lines were used. The 103rd and 104th VG Regts traveled in 2 trains but arrived in vic of LANDAU on the same day - 10 Jan. The two regts detrained and marched to a small village approx 6 kms from the detraining point where they stayed until 12 Jan. They then marched 6 hours per night for 2 nights until they arrived in ESCHBACH on 14 Jan. There they stayed until the night of 16 Jan. On that night the 104th VGR relieved para units in RITTERSHOFFEN and HATTEN and pillboxes in that area. On the night of 17-18 Jan the 103rd VGR relieved Pz Gr units in RITTERSHOFFEN area. PW states that he saw the relieved Pz Gr units moving in the direction of WISSEMBOURG. PW was originally with company trains but states that his regiment suffered 112 casualties of which 12 were in the 3rd Co. 12 men in the company trains and a repl pool in WISSEMBOURG were sent to the Co as replacements on 19 Jan. All of the replacements were over 35 years old. The 103rd VG Regt arrived in one train which consisted of 12 cars carrying 36 men each, and 10 cars carrying 24 small horses, 12 wagons and infantry carts. There were no arty pieces or tanks on the train. The 104th VGR was transported on a train of similar size. PW states that the horses were weak from overwork and lack of proper food, and that soldiers have to be used to get wagons started. PW states that 2 tanks patrol road from HATTEN to ESCHBACH constantly and passed the 103rd VGR march column three times. PW saw 4-150 mm how (Horsedrawn) moving thru RITTERSHOFFEN towards BETSCHDORF on 21 Jan, and 2 tanks in RITTERSHOFFEN. PW evacuated thru medical channels from 3rd Co, 13 Security Bn. Bn strength approx 250 men, arrived on 19 Jan, vic 075214 from COLMAR pocket. PW states he does not know of any other similar movement or units coming from COLMAR.

6. Enemy Installations. 3-150mm Hows near house at edge of ESCHBACH at 30320086.

7. Personalities

Unit	PPN
1st Sgt, 3d Co, 103 VG Regt	160570
Lt Blattermann	
Capt Haller	
Lt Wenzel	
Lt Stock	
Lt Col Seyben	
1st Lt Klein	

BEC NEWSCAST AS OF 232400 Jan

WESTERN FRONT: American troops entered ST VITH and VIANDEN.

EASTERN FRONT: The Russians have reached the ODER RIVER on a 40 mile front and are now 25 miles from BRESLAU. BROMBERG has fallen. The Russians are 50 miles from DANZIG and 25 miles from KONIGSBERG.

PHILIPPINES: The Americans are making progress against stiffening Jap resistance.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: 235617
By: 36 NAVA Date: .

FIRST ARMY PWI REPORT

"Security measures used before offensive"

Interrogation of NCO's and O's of units participating in the German attack of 16 Dec brought out the following points in regard to security measures taken by the enemy prior to attack:

1. Signal security. Prior to an attack, all code names, call signs and code keys are changed. From jumping off point to a depth of 3 km all telephone lines have to be strung double. This precaution makes it extremely difficult to tap a wire. The use of authenticators between telephone stations is stringently enforced. Only a small number of picked signal men are allowed to use telephones, in order to cut calls to a minimum and in order to insure that only a few men have knowledge of new call signs, coordinate-codes, etc. The use of walkie-talkie is forbidden. Whenever possible, messengers are used for communication, accompanied by a liaison officer if message is very important.
2. Violation of blackout regulations before an attack will result in severe disciplinary action. All troop movements, usually of no greater than Co strength, take place at night. Both men and vehicles stay under cover in daytime. If time permits, the heavy equipment such as tanks and arty pieces are brought to the marshalling area piece-meal, in order not to arouse the suspicion of Allied night reconnaissance.
3. Troops are usually given security lectures. They are warned not to talk about military things, not even to neighboring units. Some unit commanders are known to have collected Soldbucks before attacks, others told troops in case of capture to destroy them or tear out page 4 and 17 respectively.
4. Roadsigns with unit code names are used as sparingly as possible. Unit insignias and vehicle markings, however, are NOT removed. The disadvantages of removing the latter proved to outweigh the advantage obtained by a greater degree of security. It was found, for instance, that troop and vehicular traffic was slowed down in the absence of identifying markings, and that it was hard to apprehend stragglers and deserters.
5. Orientation of officers as to mission is given at last possible moment. Even then, they are given exact information only about the sector and unit with which they are directly connected.
6. H-hour is usually set between 0200 and 0400 in order to achieve a greater element of surprise.
7. Summarizing the enemy's security preparations, it may be said he is not employing any new or unusual means to insure greater secrecy. His main strength in this respect lies in his rigid enforcement of above mentioned security program.
(VII Corps)

BBC NEWS AS OF 242400 JAN

WESTERN FRONT: The British made further gains between the MAAS and the ROER and entered the town of HELMSBERG. In the ARLANNES American forces made more gains beyond ST. VITH, while heavy fighting took place near VIANDEN. In N ALSACE the enemy has continued to probe the American lines. 16 new enemy divisions are reported along the front between the SAAR and STRASBOURG and a major attack is expected in this sector. The French have made further slow progress in S ALSACE.

EASTERN FRONT: In EAST PRUSSIA troops under CHERNYAKOVSKIY and ROKOSHOVSKIY have made good progress. The latter's right flank has been brought up and gains have been reported from the lake region where LYCK was taken. ZHUKOV'S troops have taken KALISZ, 25 miles from the German frontier. In SILESIA troops under KONEV have taken OPPELN, the capital of UPPER SILESIA. They are also placed $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles SE of BRESLAU and 25 miles NE of the city. This places them 150 miles SW of BERLIN. In SLOVAKIA a new offensive has been started by MALINOVSKIY and ROSNAVA has been taken in a drive that today made gains of 12 miles.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: DDO 735017
By: 3B NARA Date: _____

II Bn - combat strength 95 Men
 5th Co - " " 15
 6th Co - " " 40
 7th Co - " " 10 (existence doubtful)
 8th Co - " " 30

III Bn Believed not to exist

13th Co Inf How about 30 men
 14th Co AT " 30 "

PWs are not certain about the exact composition and weapons of any one of these companies listed. Co's have from 1 to 2 plat 2 to 3 LMGs per plat. 13th Co has some LMGs or SIGs. 14th Co, 3 75mm AT guns, 9 "Oferrohre", and a few 100mm mortars. The 4th and 8th Cos has 6 SMDs and 3 120 mm mortars each at RITTERS-LOFFEN.

8. Composition

- 1 PW who was a messenger of 6th Co saw the entire 103rd VGR pass by on road before reaching ESCHBACH on 22 Jan, in this order:
- 7-8 tanks - Panther, Mk V
- 2-3 Assault guns SP (105mm?)
- 6 88mm AA/AT guns SP, with frontal armor.
- 1 AT destroyer plat on pers carrier consisting of driver and 15 men armed with large Panzerfaust and Oferrohren (rocket launchers).
- Staff cars, Volks-wagen, and motorcycle messengers.
- 1 Bn Inf of approx 150-200 men
- 1 Btry (med arty) 150mm Inf How - 3 pieces horsedrawn.
- Trains, horsedrawn
- Plat atzd AT guns - 3 75mm AT guns (mtzr)
- 3 210mm How SP
- 1 Bn of approx 150 Inf, 7 trains.

9. Personalities

The messenger PW of 6th Co had a complete list of names on his person, from which the following were extracted:

CG 47 VG Div	- Maj Gen (Gen Lt) BORK
CG 103rd VGR	- Lt Col Leier
1st Adj	- 1st Lt Klein
2nd "	- Lt Madiska
CO II Bn/103rd VGR	- Capt Schoenlau
Adjutant	- Lt Deventer
5th Co	- 1st Lt Makusén
6th Co	- Lt Kerating
7th Co	- Lt Reichel

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE ITEMS

Studied Insult

Prisoner from 18th VG Div states that his unit answers daily roll call by giving the current ~~last~~ US Army passwords. (1st Div)

A Rose for OB Experts

The following statement was made by an officer PW at ~~last~~ US Army PW Cage: "Before you start asking me any questions, I want to tell you that I recently inspected your OB book on the German Army organization which we captured in the vicinity of BASTONE. You know more about our army than we know ourselves; in the whole of GERMANY there exists no such comprehensive book on our army. I am not going to give you any more information." (Comment: PW turned out to be one of the most voluble yet captured.) (1st Div)

Buck Rogers Warfare

From a Second British Army report 13 Jan: "Today we had one small enemy counterattack involving two midget submarines and no infantry. Our artillery claims one destroyed, one damaged; location of attack NIJMEGEN." (1st Div)

(O-V-E-R)

SECRET

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

FROM: 232200 Jan 45
TO : 242200 Jan 45
Hq 79th Inf Div
In the Field
242400 January 1945

No. 198

Maps: No change.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

a. Enemy Front Lines: The enemy was observed or contacted North of the MODER RIVER from 0982274 to R098192.
b. Units in Contact: Elements of the 47th VC Div and the 13th Security Bn.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

a. General Summary: The only arty fire received during the night was in the BISCHWILLER area. Enemy patrols were active, however, with a small one reported vic 980267 at 0230 hrs and a large one vic 982266 at 0245 hrs. One of our patrols drew considerable small arms fire from 99822510 and vic 994255. At least 4 Germans of an outpost at 069231 were killed by a 242nd Inf patrol. The enemy was reported digging in vic 05252410. Small arms fire was received from the NEUBOURG RR station at 0755 hrs and an enemy patrol had several casualties inflicted at 959269. Small groups of enemy and one tank was observed North of HAGUENAU during the morning. The tank fired at our OP in a church steeple and managed to knock it out. At 0925 hrs an arty air OP reported and directed fire on 6 vehicles at 110225, 5 vehicles at 114219, an AA btry at 137227 and 209 infantry at 110220. Twelve vehicles were taken under fire at 136226 at 0957 hrs. Two small groups of enemy were observed at 085211 and 081213 at 1030 hrs and digging in was reported along RR track vic 025249. During the afternoon much enemy traffic was observed in the SCHIRRHHEIM (1222) - SCHIRRHHEEEN (1322) - BOIS DE SOUFFLENHEIM (1420) area. Thirty Germans were reported vic 069231 and small groups vic 056244. Self propelled fire was received in HAGUENAU and vic 074228. The enemy continued active patrolling North of the MODER RIVER in the 222nd Inf sector and our patrols engaged them twice during the afternoon. Arty, mortar and small arms fire started in the 222nd Inf sector at 2005 hrs and the enemy came out of the woods and approached the river in the 9626 grid square at 2055 hrs, but was driven back in the woods at 2110 hrs. The 3rd Bn, 313th Inf received heavy MG fire in Northwestern HAGUENAU at 2100 hrs, and replied with mortar fire. Considerable vehicular movement was reported in the CAMP DE OBERHOFFEN area shortly before 2100 hrs. The 2nd Bn, 313th Inf, received small arms fire from three points at 2105 hrs which died down by 2130 hrs.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

a. PWS evacuated through PM: 3
b. Total PWS to date: 21,942
c. Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, PW Enclosure, Inf Regts, and SCHWINDRATZHEIM.
d. No enemy tanks destroyed during period.
e. VI Corps ISUM as of 241800: Situation unchanged with probing action continuing and some movements in enemy rear areas. 10-12 tanks reported operating vic ROTHBACH (Q8534) and 4 KO'd. 125 troops reported in MULHAUSEN (Q8730) and unknown number reported going into URWILLER (Q8830) some of which were on axis. Estimated 150 enemy moving on road from ZINSWILLER (Q8634) to OFFWILLER (Q8534). Several small groups of enemy reported vic R0913.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

a. To continue reconnaissance in force along MODER RIVER.
b. To attack in division strength in attempt to force a crossing of the MODER RIVER.

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G-2

SECRET (O-V-E-R)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: NND 736017
By: 30 NAVA Date:

1. Unit Identification

<u>Unit</u>	<u>PWs</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Captured</u>	<u>Date</u>
6th Co, 103rd VG Regt, 47 VG Div	3	966265	222 Inf	23 Jan

2. Unit Organization Strength and Disposition

The 6th Co, 103rd VG Regt, has a present strength of 42 men and is made up of 2 platoons of 3 squads each. Each squad has a strength of 6 or 7 men. The company is armed with 6 LMGs and 6 MP's and the remainder of the men are armed with rifles. The entire 103rd VG Regt and 104th VG Regt were caught in American arty yesterday at approx 1400 and suffered heavy casualties. PWs captured, deserted in the confusion of the arty barrage. Bn strength estimated at 180 men previous to arty barrage. PWs all state that the 7th Co, 103rd VG Regt does not exist and that the 5th and 8th Co's also have a strength of approx 50 men each. The entire Regt was billeted in the town of ESCHBACH yesterday and was moving into assembly area prior to attack, when caught by American arty.

3. Morale

Morale of troops of the 103rd Regt generally low, according to PW statements. PWs were well informed on the Russian front and the tremendous gains made by the Russian Army. News came through official army sources. Many rumors circulating amongst troops that they will be sent to the Russian front. PWs also attributed low morale to lack of proper food and insufficient quantities of both food and sleep.

4. Supply

Ammo supply good. 6th Co troops were issued 25 rds per rifle and 600-800 rds per LMG. Food has been poor for the past 5 days. Only bread, cheese and iron rations have been received, but not in sufficient quantities.

5. Miscellaneous

PWs state that an attack was to be made with the support of 15-20 tanks at 0400 hrs, 24 Jan, but was called off because of lack of bridges and heavy arty fire which prevented the units from assembling. The following equipment was seen on the road running from ESCHBACH to WALBOURG heading west: 3 motor drawn 88mm guns, 15 tanks (2 IV and 2 V which, according to PWs, belonged to a Pz or Pz Gr Div which formerly was in HATTEN-RITTERSHOFFEN sector), 1 assault gun, 3-210mm mounted on half tracks and 2-120mm mortars mounted on carts, 3-150mm Hows (Horse drawn) and 2 75mm Inf Hows; all seen on 22 Jan. Route of approach to our lines is through forest to bridge across River at 97912827 and then along fire break to point on RR at approx 966273, from where an attack on rail vic of 95992693 where crossing of the MODER is to be made. PWs state that the attack was called off because bridge at 77912827 had just been started by a German engineer unit. The PWs state that:

The 47th VG Div suffered the severe losses while in action at DUEREN S or AACHEN, received no replacements, suffered only slight losses at RITTERSHOFFEN.

Most of their Company Commanders are 20 years old, just commissioned from the Hitler Jugend.

On approach march to ESCHBACH (99430) road was jammed for hours with inf and arty and vehicles moving up in two columns side by side. The jams were caused by blown up bridges.

At 231300 ESCHBACH was packed with elements of the 47th Div, when several American P-47s came over the town. Everybody wondered why the P-47s didn't open fire.

At 231500, while the II Bn/103rd VGR, was on the march to MERTZWILLER, our American arty caused casualties, damage and confusion with several direct hits on the moving column at (986293).

While in ESCHBACH PW heard over radio the report, by official German Army News Bulletin, concerning the extent of the Russian advance into GERMANY, which at that time was 50 km east of BRESLAU.

6. Field Post Number

6th Co, 103rd VG Regt. 30891 G

7. Strength

103rd VG Regt - Combat Strength	350 men
I Bn - " "	150 "
1st Co - " "	30
2nd Co - " "	45
3rd Co - " "	45
4th Co - " "	30

(Cont'd)

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Authority: DDO 735617
By: SB NARA Date:

SECRET

G-2 PERIODIC REPORT

72
27 Jan. 45
FROM: 252200 Jan 45
TO : 262200 Jan 45
Hq 79th Inf Div
In the Field
262400 January 1945

No. 200

Maps: No change.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD

- a. Enemy Front Lines: North of MODER RIVER from Q942274 to R098192.
- b. Units in Contact: Elements of 7th Para Div; 10th SS Pz Div, 25th Pz Gren Div and 47th VG Div.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD

a. General Summary: The enemy, evidently deciding that the bridgehead was proving much too costly, withdrew North of the MODER RIVER during darkness leaving approximately 300 dead behind. Tracked vehicle movement was heard in OBERHOFFEN (0920) at 0045 hrs and more vehicles were heard moving from CAMP D'OB-ERHOFFEN in a northwesterly direction. The eastern part of BISCHWILLER received some mortar and arty fire during the night while HAGUENAU, OHLUNGIN (9723) and UHLWILLER (9524) were shelled lightly. The MLR west of SCHWEIGHAUSEN was reest-ablished in the morning with only light MG fire received from North of the River. Considerable traffic was reported moving east towards SCHIRRHHEIM (1222) at 0715 hrs and our arty placed interdiction fire on the road. In the afternoon small groups of enemy and a few vehicles were seen in the vicinity of METZGER (025249). A 20 man patrol via 010246 was dispersed by our small arms and arty fire. Eight vehicles and an estimated company of infantry were taken under arty fire at 0244-2489 at 1505 hrs. Heavy two way traffic was reported between OBERHOFFEN and SCHIRRHHEIM in the afternoon. Enemy vehicular and infantry activity in MERTZ- WILLER (9629) was fired on by our arty and hit by friendly fighter-bomber planes.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. PWs evacuated through PM: 111
- b. PWs evacuated through medical channels: 23
- c. Total PWs to date: 22,247
- d. 3 enemy vehicles and one gun destroyed during the period. Co "A", 813th TD Bn knocked out 3 vehicles and several enemy at 030246 at 1505 hrs, and the 310th FA Bn knocked out the gun.
- e. Location of CIC personnel: Div CP, PW Enclosure, Inf Regts and SCHWIND- RATZHEIM.
- f. VI Corps ISUM as of 261800: Enemy activity continues light with no arty fire being reported and no contact on either flank. Principle activity was in 103rd Div sector where snipers were reported in BISCHHOLTZ (Q8532), unknown num- ber of enemy active in MULHAUSEN (Q8631) and small arms fire reported from NIEFFERN (Q8729).

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

- a. To patrol and reconnoiter the MODER RIVER.
- b. To attempt to force a crossing of the MODER RIVER in division strength.

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UNIT

FWS

KILLED AND WOUNDED

TOTAL CASUALTIES

10 SS Div22nd SS Pz Gr Regt

1st Co	7	25	32
2nd "	10	15	25
3rd "	24	25	49
4th "	6	8	14
5th "	Dissolved 2 days ago combined with 6th Co		
6th "	5	75	80
7th "		38	38
8th "		10	10
3rd Bn not contacted			

21st SS Pz Gr Regt

1st Bn not contacted			
5th Co		33	33
6th "		40	40
7th "	1	45	46
8th "		5	5
9th "		15	15
10th "	33	55	88
11th "	28	50	78
12th "		7	7

7 Para Div21st Para Regt

1st Bn not contacted			
2nd Bn not contacted			
9th Co	7	30	37
10th "	5	40	45
11th "	9	35	44
12th "	6	10	16
Bicycle Co	26	65	91

20th Para Regt

1st Co	1	15	16
2nd "	6	10	16
3rd "	2	25	27
4th "	1	5	6
2nd Bn not contacted			
9th Co	4	20	24
10th "		5	5
11th "	2	30	32
12th "	2	15	17

25th Pz Gren Div119th Pz Gren Regt

1st Co	8	5	13
5th "		15	15
6th "	5	10	15
7th "	6	10	16

35th Pz Gren Regt

3rd Co	12	8	20
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47th VG Div103rd VG Regt

1st Co	34	15	49
2nd "	23	10	33
3rd "	32	18	50
4th "		5	5
2nd Bn not contacted			

104th VG Regt

1st Co	2	25	27
2nd "		13	13
3rd "		15	15
4th "	2	58	60
2nd Bn not contacted			

TOTAL

304

890

 R.H. PAERCKE 1204
 1st Lt. CMC
 1st Team 50

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Authority: AND 735017By: SB NAVA, Date: _____

Unit Identification

Unit	PW	Place	Captured	Date
1st Co, 22 SS Regt, 10 SS Div	7	063229	242 Inf	25 Jan
2nd Co, " "	6	"	"	"
3rd Co, " "	24	"	"	"
Bicycle Co, 7th Para Div	22	W SCHWEIGHAUSEN	4-222 Inf	"
3rd Bn Hq, 21 Para Regt, 7 Para	5	"	18-14 Armd Div	"
			3-222 Inf	"
			2-14 Armd Div	"
1st Co, 20th Para Regt	1	SCHWEIGHAUSEN	222 Inf	"
2nd Co, " "	6	W	14 Armd Div	"
3rd Co, " "	2	"	222 Inf	"
4th Co, " "	1	"	14 Armd Div	"
9th Co, " "	4	"	"	"
11th Co, " "	2	"	"	"
12th Co, " "	2	"	"	"
9th Co, 21st Para Regt	6	"	"	"
10th Co, " "	5	"	"	"
12th Co, " "	15	"	3-222 Inf	"
1st Co, 103rd VGR, 47th VG Div	2	NEUBOURG	12-14 Armd Div	"
			222 Inf	"

2. Deserter PWs in Civilian Clothes Apprehended by 79th CIC Detachment

Unit	PW	Last Unit Location	Date
3rd Co, 260th Inf Repl Tng Bn	1	PRAGUE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA	16 Nov
TOTAL PWs PROCESSED	111		

Unit Organization, Strength and Disposition

PWs of 3rd Bn Hq, 21st Para Regt were captured in northern outskirts of SCHWEIGHAUSEN. PWs were part of a group of communication personnel assigned mission of accompanying the 3rd Bn to maintain radio communication with Regimental CP during the attack on SCHWEIGHAUSEN. PW states that he was ordered to call several times for reinforcements to hold town, but none ever came. Shortly after the Americans counterattacked, the town was overrun by the Americans and PW destroyed SOI but did not have time to demolish the radio which he said fell in our hands contact. The Bn was in constant contact with the Regimental CP by radio, and negative reports were required to be submitted every 15 minutes. (Report made as follows: QRX-QRU, followed by time, which means all well, any orders. Messages sent on wavelength of 3200 "Grad 32"). PW states that there was insufficient wire to install telephone communications. The entire Bn made the attack on SCHWEIGHAUSEN on the morning of 25 Jan, after the first attack the previous night had failed. Assembly area for first attack was the forest at 985277, assembly area for second attack on forest at 985253. Mission and objective of the attack was to take the high ground north and northwest of SCHWEIGHAUSEN, and also the town itself, thus establishing a bridgehead across the MODER RIVER. The strength of the Bn before the attack was approx 300-400 men. The MODER RIVER was crossed by merely throwing planks across it. Shortly before the leading elements approached the northern end of the town, they were greeted by a terrific crossfire of small arms and heavy arty and mortar concentrations. PW states that the Bn was literally "mowed down" and that dead and wounded littered the entire northern part of the town. PW estimates as to casualties vary from 50-75%, but all agree that very few men made their way back across the MODER into the forest north of the RIVER. What was left of the Bn fled in wild disorder.

The 1st Co, 20th Para Regt was previously engaged in HATTEN. The entire regt was relieved by the 103rd and 104th VG Regts, 47th VG Div, which moved into NIEDER-MODERN, SELTZ, NEUHAUSEL and then into FORT LOUIS. The Regt then spent some time in DAIHUNDEN after which it moved through SIESSENHEIM and SCHIRRHHEIM to assembly area in forest vic of 98552700 where they stayed for two days prior to the attack. The entire Bn was in the above assembly area. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Co's were called out yesterday to secure the east flank of a Pz Gr Unit which was to attack the town of UHLWILLER. The 3rd Co was on the right flank of the Bn and was in position at edge of forest vic 980253, the 2nd Co was to be left flank of the Bn in position SE corner of forest vic 965246 and the 1st Co was in the center. 1st Co was never able to accomplish its mission and was virtually destroyed in the attempt. All three companies suffered heavy losses when the attack on UHLWILLER failed to materialize, and the unit had two exposed flanks. Casualties were caused by mortar, MG and tank fire. PW of the 3rd Co states that 70 men of the company were lost in HATTEN-RITTERSHOFEN sector, and that approx 45 were lost in yesterday's attack.

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The 1st Bn, 22nd SS Regt attacked vic sawmill on the MODER RIVER at 065230. The entire Bn suffered heavy losses. 17 PW plus 2 wounded were pinned down by MG fire for 8 hours before they finally surrendered to the Americans. PWs estimated that the 3rd Co was virtually destroyed. The entire Bn came from vic of DRUSENHEIM on 23 Jan to move into assembly area NW of CAMP D'UBER-HOFFEN. PW states that they spent the entire time out in the open before the attack. The 2nd Co was to cross the River in assault boats and hit the sawmill from the south. After the River crossing was secured, the 1st and 4th Cos were to cross the river and a small holding force was to be left at the sawmill with the remainder of the Bn to join forces with the 2nd Bn, 22 SS Regt and attack HAGUENAU from the Southwest. The 2nd Co lost an estimated minimum of 40 of the original 80 men it had before the attack. The entire Bn suffered heavy casualties from mortar and arty fire. PW of the 1st Co stated that he saw approx 20 men of his company cut off and systematically destroyed by arty fire.

The 1st and 3rd Bns of the 20th Para Regt advanced to vic of 985243 at edge of forest west of SCHWEIGHAUSEN. Both units had previously suffered heavy casualties in HATTEN and RITTERSHOFFEN. Both units were overrun by the American counterattack and approx 50% casualties were suffered, mostly by heavy tank and MG fire. Remnants of the unit were last seen fleeing across the MODER to wooded area at 985275. PW states that the 21st Para Regt was to follow them in attack, but movement was not properly coordinated due, mainly, to poor communications. PW stated that after the town of SCHWEIGHAUSEN had been taken and a secure bridgehead had been established, the 945th VG Regt of the 245th VG Div was to relieve the Para Units in this sector.

3. Morale:

Morale generally lower. All units contacted were in assembly areas for a minimum of two days. Assembly areas were in various places in the forest and many reports of frostbite were received. In addition the disheartening news from the Russian front does not aid in raising morale.

4. Supply

Generally good. Food supply was adequate but generally no hot food has been served in past two days. Ammo supply good for small arms weapons ranging from 60-100 rds per rifle and 800-1200 rds per MG.

5. Miscellaneous

PW of SS unit states he saw 5 Sherman tanks with German crews and 20 light tanks in OFFENDORF on 23 Jan. Engr Bridging unit of the 10th SS Div also in OFFENDORF with two bridging sets which can be used to cross rivers up to 62 yds wide. According to PW description of bridging equipment, it sounds suspiciously like "Bailey" Bridge equipment. 7 Royal Tiger tanks in HERRLISHEIM on 21 Jan.

BEC NEWS AS OF 262400 JAN

WESTERN FRONT: In the North troops facing the British Second and the Ninth U S Armies have withdrawn East across the ROER RIVER. In N ALSACE the Seventh Army has wiped out the enemy bridgeheads on the South bank of the MODER RIVER and the enemy has been pushed back to his original lines. The Germans were unable to put in a bridge so their troops were not supported by armor or AT guns. In S ALSACE the French Army is still on the offensive despite stiff resistance and is attacking at two points between MULHOUSE and COLMAR.

EASTERN FRONT: CHERNYAKOVSKY'S troops have broadened the front on their left flank by gains between the MASURIAN LAKES and the INSTERBURG-KOENIGSBERG RR and it is reported that his most forward units are 10 miles E of KOENIGSBERG. ROKOSOVSKY'S units have broken through to the BALTIC SEA coast East of ELBING. They have also taken MARIENBURG, 25 miles Southeast of DANZIG. In West central POLAND ZHUKOV has broadened his front at POZNAN. In SILESIA KONEV'S forces have taken HINDENBURG, an industrial city described by the Germans as a "great asset to the national fortune". They have also continued to further outflank BRESLAU as they are placed at points 10 miles to the North and 30 miles to the Northwest of the city. In BUDA 25 more city blocks were taken, and Southwest of the city renewed enemy counterattacks were beaten back. The Russians report that since the offensive began the enemy has lost 295,000 in killed and wounded and 86,000 in PWs.

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Authority: 235017
By: 36 NAVA: Date: _____